

Hafa Adai!

MBHI: Drug epidemic at an all-time high. **PAGE 3**

Tinian to mark 13th Hot Pepper Festival this Feb. **PAGE 9**

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75¢

## CUC increases fuel charge

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

Power customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. can expect to see an increase in their power bill later this month after the utility agency increased its Fuel Adjustment Charge for February.

CUC's Fuel Adjustment Charge, or FAC, for January was at \$0.15512 per kilowatt-hour. This went up to \$0.16381 per kWh effective yesterday. The FAC was previously known as the Lev-elized Energy Adjustment

Residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will pay approximately \$4.35 more in their monthly billing.

Clause, or LEAC.

As a result, residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will pay approximately \$4.35 more in

their monthly billing.

According to a statement CUC released yesterday, the move was prompted by a no-  
**See CUC on Page 4**

### MVA frets over role of BnB's

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

Despite the increasing number of tourist arrivals in the CNMI, the total amount of hotel occupancy tax that goes to the Marianas Visitors Authority remains the same.

That leads the MVA to suspect that many tourists use the lodging services of

bed-and-breakfast establishments, which are private homes that also function as substandard hotels.

In their meeting last week, MVA managing director Chris Concepcion reported to the MVA board that despite the rising number of tourists here, the hotel occupancy tax remains constant.

"This means these tourists  
**See MVA on Page 4**

### IN CUC'S 2013 LAWSUIT VS CNMI GOVT OVER \$1.2M DEBT

#### Govt, CUC enter confidential settlement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has entered a confidential settlement agreement with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to resolve CUC's lawsuit against the government over the non-payment of its \$1.2 million debt.

With the settlement, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed CUC's lawsuit yesterday with prejudice. That means CUC can no longer re-file the case.

The settlement resolves the lawsuit effective Jan. 1, 2017, according to assistant attorney general Charles Brasington,

**See GOVT on Page 4**

#### Kilili's CW1 bill again passes House

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

House Resolution 339, which would increase the number of CW-1 workers in the CNMI to 15,000 just for fiscal year 2017, passed the U.S. House of Representatives again after the measure went to a floor vote on Monday.

HR 339, introduced by

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), again goes to the U.S. Senate for similar action. If the bill makes it through the Senate, it will soon be on President Donald J. Trump's table for signing within the year.

Sablan re-introduced HR 339 in the first session of the 115th U.S. Congress on Jan. 5.

**See KILILI on Page 4**



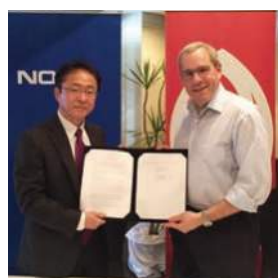
#### AUTO FIRE

PHOTO BY DFEMS ROTA

An arson investigator inspects a 1995 Toyota pickup truck that caught fire while parked at a house in District 1, Rota on Monday night. Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the fire. No one was injured.

**See story on Page 6**

### INSIDE



#### LOCAL

Docomo Pacific and Nokia sign a memorandum of understanding for a three-year deal.

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#### NATION

President Donald Trump nominates Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court.

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#### ENVIRONMENT

Nearly 100 false killer whales die in South Florida. Now scientists want to know why.

**PAGE 19**



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## Local

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific president and CEO Jonathan Krieger, right, and Nokia Japan head Masatoshi Nishihara show off their newly signed memorandum of understanding.

## Docomo Pacific signs a deal with Nokia on Atisa

By DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO  
demalynn.sablan@gmail.com  
REPORTER

Docomo Pacific and Nokia Japan signed a memorandum of understanding yesterday for a three-year joint partnership on Atisa, the CNMI's second undersea fiber-optic cable.

Docomo Pacific president and CEO Jonathan Krieger signed the memorandum with Nokia Japan's Masatoshi Nishihara.

Krieger also announced that the Atisa optical submarine cable system will be launched on June 1, 2017.

"With Atisa, Docomo will bring better indoor and outdoor coverage, faster speed, expand the number of television channels to about 200, bring access to pay-preview, video on demand, and provide carrier Wi-Fi (Wi-Fi hotspots) to certain areas of the island and more," Krieger said.

Docomo Pacific will also increase the number of cell sites on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Saipan currently has 31 cell sites. This will grow to 36 cell sites. Out of the 36, 20 will be at LTE speed.

LTE stands for Long-Term Evolution and is a standard for high-speed wireless com-

munication network.

Under Docomo Pacific's plan, Tinian will go from one cell site to three, with all three on LTE. Rota currently has two cell sites; that will double to four and all will be LTE as well.

From an economic standpoint, "Atisa will open doors to data usage stimulation growth and encourage private sector investments through tourism, hotels, and other industries," Krieger said.

In addition, Atisa will connect the CNMI and Guam to a single line market where it acts as a regular landline call.

Nishihara said, "What we need to do to go further is to change our relationship into a strategic business partnership."

Nokia has a longstanding relationship with Docomo, which dates back to the successful launch of 3G services in Guam in 2008, followed by the rollout of LTE in 2012.

"This is a state-of-the art, multimillion-dollar network that will transform enterprises today and for future innovative services through telemedicine, education, and security," Krieger said.

The CNMI's lone undersea fiber-optic cable is owned by IT&E.

## 286 new items at public libraries

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Tinian Public Library has 286 new items, according to JKPL Librarian 1 Ray Deleon Guerrero Jr.

Their new items range from AV2, juveniles to young adults and adults, and Pacific and Asian books. Among the books Deleon Guerrero recommends include *Between The Assassinations*, *The Devil and Miss Prym: A Novel*, *The Emperor's Children*, *Hank The Cowdog*, *The Witches' Party*, *The Phantom Isles*, *Cook Islands Cook Book*, *Vince Flynn: Order to Kill*, *Night School: A Jack Reacher Novel*, *The Garden Problem Solver*, *The Craft of Lyric Writing*, *The Art of Cakes*, *Dramarama*, *The Stepsister's Tale*, and *Ravage: A Deviants Novel*.

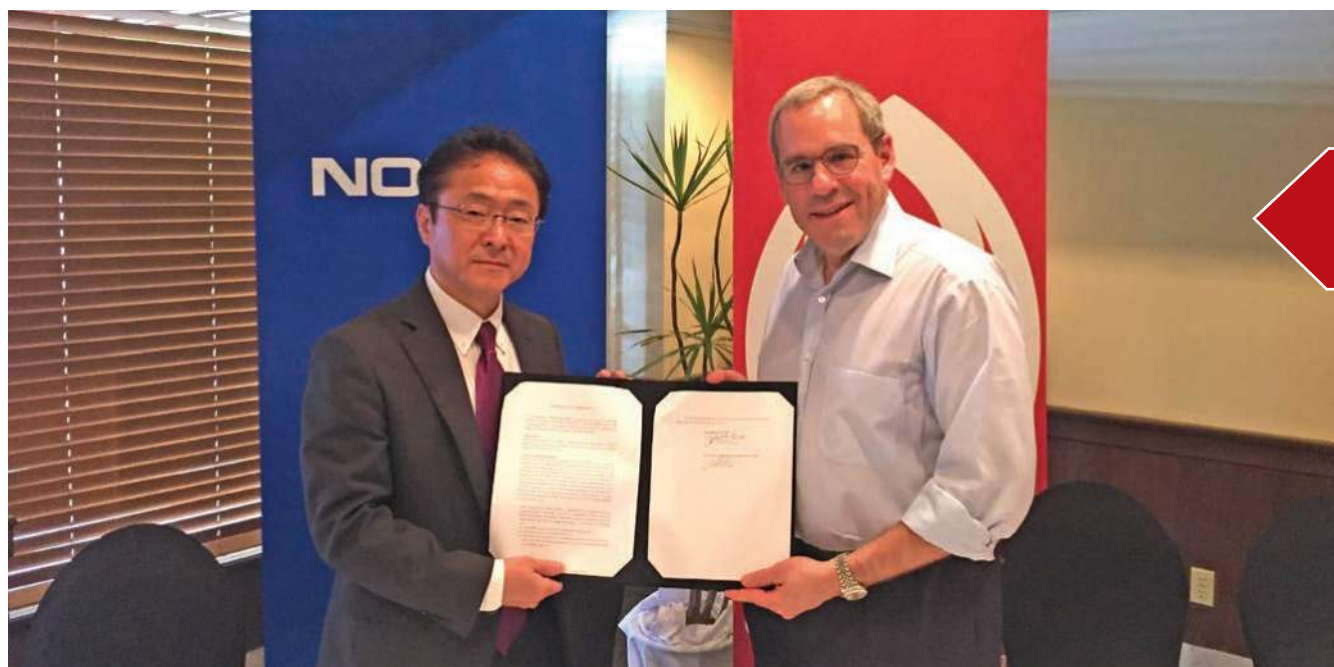
JKPL and the Tinian Public Library also have new magazines.

Deleon Guerrero invites

the public to stop by JKPL and check out their daily book sale section of books: children's/young adults and adult fiction, nonfiction, biography, music, educational, medical books, and Japanese/Chinese and Korean books.

JKPL also has a book sale ongoing.

"Our book sale special will be buy 10 get five for free! So come and enjoy our books!" said Deleon Guerrero. "Our new collection of books will be appreciated by not only the regular patrons of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library but would be appreciated as well by people who haven't visited their public library and have wondered what types of books and other items we release each month. It is not only to promote literacy each and everyday to the people but inform people of what's new/what's up and what's happening." (PR)



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**Kamay ni Hesus Tour with lunch**  
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**Regina Rica Tour with lunch**  
Regina Rosarii Institute for Contemplation in Asia, or simply Regina RICA, is a shrine and pilgrimage site situated in a 13.5 hectares of land at the foothills of Sierra Madre in Tanay, Rizal. Founded in 2005, Regina RICA is under the auspices of the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of Regina Rosarii. Dominican Sisters of Regina Rosarii's mission is to teach people about contemplative prayer and contemplative way of life.

**DAY 1**

**DAY 2**

**DAY 3**

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Manila Bay Area							
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Hotel Jen 4*	Deluxe	\$1,188.00	\$1,073.00	\$1,051.00	\$91.00	\$46.00	\$39.00
Hyatt City of Dreams 5*	Deluxe	\$1,341.00	\$1,150.00	\$1,110.00	\$168.00	\$84.00	\$68.00
Sofitel Philippine Plaza 5*	Superior	\$1,409.00	\$1,184.00	\$1,144.00	\$202.00	\$101.00	\$85.00
Makati							
St. Giles 3*	Superior	\$1,135.00	\$1,047.00	\$1,033.00	\$65.00	\$33.00	\$30.00
Hotel Celeste 4*	Deluxe	\$1,222.00	\$1,090.00	\$1,070.00	\$108.00	\$54.00	\$48.00
New World Hotel 5*	Superior	\$1,336.00	\$1,147.00	\$1,112.00	\$165.00	\$83.00	\$69.00
BGC Fort Bonifacio							
F1 Hotels & Resorts 4*	Deluxe	\$1,231.00	\$1,095.00	\$1,073.00	\$113.00	\$57.00	\$50.00
Shangri-La at the Fort Complex 5*	Deluxe High Street View*	\$1,700.00	\$1,329.99	\$1,237.00	\$350.00	\$174.00	\$132.00
Ortigas							
Eastwood Richmond Hotel 3*	Superior	\$1,265.00	\$1,112.00	\$1,100.00	\$130.00	\$65.00	\$63.00
Edsa Shangri-La 5*	Deluxe (Tower Wing)	\$1,375.00	\$1,167.00	\$1,129.00	\$185.00	\$93.00	\$78.00
Quezon City							
Microtel Acropolis 3*	2-Queen Beds	\$1,183.00	\$1,081.00	\$1,045.00	\$89.00	\$45.00	\$36.00
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# MBHI: Drug epidemic at an all-time high

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
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REPORTER

A newly created non-profit group has been reaching out to schools on the islands to raise awareness about the effects of drug and alcohol abuse.

Diego "DJ" Sablan, executive director of Marianas Behavioral Health International, along with volunteers Joey Arriola and others, spoke to middle school students of Hopwood Junior High School about their experiences with drug and alcohol abuse.

"We are sharing the effects of [drugs and alcohol], ...re-

alizing that this has really affected our lives," said Sablan. "We are now sober and...sharing it with others."

According to Sablan, middle school students are among the youngest group of students to have contact with drugs such as methamphetamine or "ice" and cannabis or marijuana.

"As we talk to the community, [substance abuse] is at an all-time high. It is an epidemic now. We have recognized that not only do we have adult users, but now it is also getting down to the younger children. As we go around and talk to people, the middle school chil-

dren have now been affected as well," said Sablan.

According to him, they have learned from their presentations that majority of students have seen and have been offered "ice."

"We did a show of hands asking how many have seen 'ice.' Majority raised their hand. We asked how many of [the middle school students] knew someone who uses 'ice' and the majority of them raised their hands as well. We asked how many of them were offered to use

'ice,' about half of the whole audience raised their hands."

Arriola, a former lawyer, lost his law license because of drugs.

"What I share with children all the time is how I lost my law license. Part of how I lost my law license was being hooked on alcohol and drugs. A lot of people don't know that, so I try to go out and champion this cause, telling people to think about what could happen to you [if you abuse drugs]. I am just a real-life story that they can relate to

and I feel that this can impact their lives," said Arriola.

Arriola said the growing drug epidemic has to be stopped in its tracks.

"It has reached epidemic proportions and it is not just [affecting] the adults, but it is now [affecting] the children. [We are] doing anything to try and slow that down and help our children," he said.

Arriola told the children that anyone thinking about trying drugs should just remember what happened to him.

"I am not going to tell you

not to do it. If you are thinking of trying it, then here is my story. See what could happen to you and how it could ruin everything you have worked for," said Arriola.

Noel Roque, a seventh grader at Hopwood, said the presentation opened his eyes to the drug problem.

"[The presentation] helped me a lot by telling me not to do drugs or alcohol when I grow up because I might not have a good life, a job, and all those things," he said.

For counseling, contact MBHI at 234-4673 (HOPE). The MBHI patient center is located at the second floor of the Marianas Business Plaza.

## OAG to introduce evidence that Army reservist molested others

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General plans to introduce new evidence that a retired Army reservist who is accused of sexually abusing two minors committed other acts of child molestation.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub informed the Superior Court on Monday that, in one case, the government plans to introduce evidence that 54-year-old Michael Barry Murphy sexually molested the aunt of one victim from 1994 to 2004 when she was a minor. The victim in this case is now 21 years old.

The incidents allegedly happened between June to August 2007 and June to August 2008, according to court documents.

In this case, the OAG charged Murphy with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and one count of indecent exposure in the first degree.

The aunt is now 26 years old, according to Weintraub.

Weintraub said defense counsel Janet H. King has been provided with discovery that summarizes the aunt's expected testimony.

King asked the court yesterday to grant a preliminary hearing so that Murphy can obtain information regarding the charges against him and file a bill of particulars.

A bill of particulars refers

to a list of written statements made by a party to a court proceeding, upon demand of another party in the case that seeks for more details of a claim or defense.

Murphy is currently released in the other criminal case after posting a \$50,000 bond.

The other case charged the defendant with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. In that case, he allegedly sexually abused a 4-year-old girl on Aug. 6, 2016.

King said the court has discretion to determine whether Murphy is substantially deprived, pointing out that Murphy had to pay a \$50,000 cash bail and had to surrender his travel documents.

"This is a substantial condition that infringes upon defendant's constitutional right to travel, and deprives him of substantial liberty interests," the defense counsel said.

King added that a preliminary hearing should also give Murphy a reasonable opportunity to learn of the basis of the charges against him and to file a bill of particulars.

At a preliminary hearing last August in the case involving a 4-year-old girl, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio found probable cause to believe that the crimes of two counts of sexual abuse of a minor were committed and that Murphy may have committed the offenses.

## Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the beaches adjacent to the Tanapag meeting hall and the GrandVrio drainage and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal

indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

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# Torres scouting for next head of VMA

Freshman lawmaker Rep. Greg Sablan (R-Saipan) has left his position as head of the Veterans and Military Affairs Office since being sworn in on Capital Hill.

VMA deputy director Ber-

nadita Boyer Dela Cruz is now the acting executive director.

Dela Cruz has been with the VMA office for more than 12 years.

According to Sablan, the appointed executive director

for VMA has to be a retired veteran, but it is up to the governor to assign someone to the position.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres told reporters that he is currently going through names that are

interested in the position.

"I would be meeting with them [soon] to fill the position. In the meantime, I have Bernie as acting," said Torres.

Torres said that Sablan made some recommendations as to who he thinks is a good fit for the position.

"[Sablan] gave me some

recommendations but ultimately, the decision is all up to my office," said Torres.

He hopes to fill the position within two weeks.

"I have this week to meet up with other people that is interested in the position," he said. "All of them are former retired military men."

Sablan was appointed as the VMA executive director back on Feb. 8, 2016, before winning the election as a member of the CNMI House of Representatives. Sablan is ranked as a lieutenant colonel and is looking to retire from the Army in mid-2017. **(Erwin Encinares)**

## Torres, House members to meet today

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the leadership of the House of Representatives will sit down today to talk about Public Law 19-83.

Among the issues on the agenda is the new base salary schedule and increased salary ceiling for classified civil service government employees and increasing the salaries of all elected officials.

PL 19-83 became a law on Jan. 20 even without Torres' signature since he was in Washington, D.C. where he met with congressional leaders and officials of the National Governors Association while also attending the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump.

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) introduced House Bill 19-3 that was transmitted to the Governor's Office for signing on Dec. 12 after the House and Senate passed it unanimously. It just stayed on Torres' desk

for more than a month.

All civil service employees had already received their 5-percent increase in their salaries, as it was in the fiscal year 2017 budget, leaving the portion for the legislators' pay hike unfunded.

Torres said there is no budget for the increase and he is not willing to cut the central government's budget appropriation for fiscal year 2017. "We have to cut somewhere or on their own [funds] if there's no additional revenue for it."

"If there's a supplemental budget that could be identified, then that could help fund it. We're going to meet and talk about that and other issues, like with the hospital," added Torres.

Demapan said Tuesday that Torres could have vetoed the bill instead of allowing it to become a law. Legislators, both members of the House and Senate, were supposed to receive the increase this coming payday. Instead, it is on hold until a funding source is identified, either by Torres or

the Legislature.

PL 19-83 would increase the legislators' annual salaries from \$39,300 to \$70,000, with close to \$800,000 needed to fund the pay hike in the last seven months of the fiscal year 2017. The wage hike will have no problems

## Scheduled power outage

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017, from 6am to 11am.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely change out wooden power poles to concrete along Flame Tree Road in Dandan. This is an effort to strengthen and harden the integrity of the distribution circuit.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, travelers are encouraged to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

for fiscal year 2018 as money could be appropriated by the House Ways and Means Committee, which is tasked to prepare the bill for the CNMI budget.

The governor and lieutenant governor will be receiving \$120,000 and \$100,000 each based on PL 19-83, which was recommended by the Advi-

Areas to be affected are Dandan Flame Tree Rd. (Gatbo Av., Tasi Ln., Tasi Dr., Fiеста St., Beach Av., and Sand St.), Hawaiian Rock Quarry, and Naftan Road (Obyan Beach Dr., Dela Concepcion Dr., and Santa Margarita Pl.).

The Obyan water well will be affected.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(CUC)**

from our projected revenue. That money would have more than made up that amount if we do collect the taxes," said Cavanagh.

She also raised a question about the safety of BNBs.

"[The hotel occupancy tax] is one thing, another thing is every hotel has to pay an annual fee for their fire permits; that is in the thousands. The fire permit ensures that our guests are safe. Are we going to wait before one of these places have a fire and [affect the reputation of Saipan]?"

"We need that enforcement; we need that enforcement now more than ever. There are new places popping up and are not paying the hotel occupancy tax," added Cavanagh.

Concepcion said the Department of Finance has already been notified about these BNBs.

"There are also a few websites in foreign languages

that we have found and shared with the DOF to beef up their enforcement efforts. [MVA is] assured by the DOF that they are investigating," said Concepcion.

The tricky part is pinpointing each and every establishment and enforcing the taxes so they can continue doing business.

According to MVA legal counsel Michael Witry, the Department of Commerce has been working on this. Witry pointed out that CNMI law allows BNB establishments to be taxed.

The MVA later plans to meet with Finance Secretary Larissa Larsson to talk about this matter.

According to Cavanagh, a task force has been formed to tackle the BNB matter on Saipan. Cavanagh, who is also a member of the task force, said the task force has yet to meet since being organized.

2015 to provide an accurate description for costumers.

The FAC is used to purchase fuel and serves as one of the two components that make up a CUC power bill. The second rate component is the electric base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt servicing.

## KILILI

From Page 1

It aims to increase the numerical limit of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Nonimmigrant Visa program from 12,998 to 15,000 for fiscal year 2017.

If it becomes law, HR 339 would give temporary relief to the current workforce issues in the CNMI after the CW-1 cap was breached twice in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Because of this, hundreds of foreign guest workers had to exit the CNMI; that affected the operations of some businesses.

Rep. Thomas McClintock (R-California, 4th), the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands chair, suspended the rules and passed the bill without objections. The subcommittee is under the House Committee on Natural Resources headed by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah, 1st).

HR 339 would also in-

crease the education fee for each approved CW permit of a foreign worker from \$150 to \$200, with the funds going to training U.S. qualified workers. Another proposed amendment is for construction workers getting their permits extended if it was first issued on Oct. 1, 2015.

HR 339 was referred to the Natural Resources Committee after Sablan introduced it on Jan. 5. It was also referred to the Judiciary Committee for a certain period and will later be determined by House Speaker Paul Ryan (Wisconsin, 1st) in each case for consideration if the provisions are within the committee's jurisdiction.

On Monday, McClintock introduced a motion to suspend the rules and pass HR 339. The House considered suspending the rules and it proceeded with a 40-minute debate. The motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill went to a voice vote and was later agreed without objection.

## GOVT

From Page 1

counsel for the government, and CUC counsel Michael A. White. The case was dropped.

Both parties held settlement discussions after Camacho issued an order last August, stating that the Office of the Attorney General does not understand the difference between the concepts of "creature of the state" and "arm of the state."

Camacho discussed the two doctrines in his order denying the government's motion for summary judgment and an order denying the Commonwealth's motion for reconsideration in connection with CUC's lawsuit.

CUC filed the lawsuit in December 2013, alleging that the government owed the utility company \$1.24 million, together with pre-judgment interest. CUC alleged that the government breached its utility contract.

The government moved to dismiss the complaint. At the time, the government argued that CUC, a public utility corporation, lacked capacity to sue the state.

In his order on Sept. 3, 2014, Camacho denied the government's motion, noting that the Commonwealth Code explicitly and unambiguously imposed liability on government utility consumers for breach of contract claims.

Camacho also noted that upon review of all state of emergency executive orders issued by the governor, none of the executive orders suspended CUC's statutory ability to bill government utility consumers.

The government petitioned the NMI Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus seeking to overturn the court's order.

The NMI Supreme Court denied the government's petition.

The high court upheld Camacho's ruling that CUC can sue the government.

## MVA

From Page 1

are staying somewhere and not paying the proper taxes," Concepcion told the board.

A bed and breakfast establishments, or BNB, provide lodging services for tourists without paying the requisite hotel occupancy tax. It is usually a house with multiple rooms and do not pay taxes.

Because of this, MVA is forced to adjust future budgets. The hotel occupancy tax is a big chunk of the MVA budget, with 15 percent of the entirety of the hotel occupancy tax going to the MVA budget.

MVA board member Jerry Tan shared with board members a quick search for rooms on multiple BNB websites.

"There are 72 guesthouses in different sizes. The one that we can assess online in regards to price has 410 rooms. There

are 20 that cannot be assessed online. That could be another 100 or 200 more rooms of varying sizes. We are talking about a significant number of rooms that our guests [could use without paying for the hotel occupancy tax]," said Tan.

MVA board member Gloria Cavanagh agreed with Tan, saying the numbers are significantly high.

"These are the ones that you can actually look for. This is about 150,000 room nights per year," said Cavanagh.

Cavanagh said the MVA's budget projections have to be looked at again because of the effects BNBs have on the island.

"You can go on all these websites and book 410 rooms. That is about 150,000 room nights that may not be paying taxes," she said.

"For October and November [2016], [MVA] saw a decrease of about \$263,000

just its FAC rate based on oil prices, based on the Mean of Platts Singapore, or MOPS, the average of a set of Singapore-based oil product price assessments published by Platts, a global energy, petrochemicals, metals and agriculture information provider. If MOPS' monthly pricing is

equal or more than 4.5 percent of the average per gallon cost of fuel, adjustments are to be made by CUC.

CUC instituted the LEAC back in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs. Power providers in Guam and in the Virgin Islands also utilize LEAC, which was changed to FAC last May

## CUC

From Page 1

tice from Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. that there has been a rise in average fuel prices.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission previously allowed CUC to ad-



# Atkins Kroll turns over Tacoma to Red Cross

Atkins Kroll Saipan officially donated yesterday the pickup truck it leased for free to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter to help with relief efforts in the wake of Typhoon Soudelor two years ago.

The turnover for the 2015 Toyota Tacoma Pre-Runner double cab pickup happened during the dealer's Tacoma Spirit Sales Event last Saturday at its San Jose showroom.

ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh thanked Atkins Kroll for the gesture.

"We had the truck all throughout Soudelor. They decided to give us the Tacoma truck with the title and additional free main maintenance through the life of the vehicle. That's a huge donation. We're incredibly grateful and we didn't expect this. This is nothing new for AK. They've been supporting us for over 20 years. They're a



**DONNA RIVERA**

Atkins Kroll Saipan officially donated the 2015 Toyota Tacoma Pre-Runner double cab pickup truck it loaned to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter after Typhoon Soudelor during a simple ceremony last Saturday at the auto dealer's showroom in San Jose.

long-time supporter of Red Cross," he said.

Atkins Kroll Saipan presi-

dent and general manager Douglas Brennan said the company is happy to donate

the car, knowing it would be put to good use.

"With the expiration of

the lease, our president decided to donate three units to the Red Cross. They now own it. In addition to that we're giving a Service 4 Life maintenance package,"

he said.

"The Red Cross has done such a great job helping the people of the island specially during Soudelor. They're still helping out. Right after the storm we donated the use of the original trucks so they could use it to move water and other supplies around and help with emergency relief," Brennan added.

In 2014, as part of Atkins Kroll's centennial celebration, it donated a 2015 Toyota Tacoma Pre-Runner double cab pickup truck on a two-year lease to the local chapter of the Red Cross. The lease agreement also included routine maintenance.

When the lease expired in December, Atkins Kroll decided to donate the ownership of the vehicle to the Red Cross. Two other trucks were donated to the Red Cross in Guam.

Including the Service 4 Life packages, Atkins Kroll's total donation is valued at \$84,000. *(Saipan Tribune)*

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Calling Tinian homestead applicants

Current Tinian homestead applicants interested in finding out the status of their homestead applications can contact Lisa Augon, DPL Tinian Office at (670) 433-9245 to

book an appointment on Feb. 2 or 3, 2017. *(PR)*

### Meeting of heirs today

The heirs of Leonard "Nahdo" Muna Camacho and Maria Campos Camacho will have a meeting today, Feb. 2,

2017, at 5:30pm at the Carolinian utt. All heirs of the following are invited: Ignacia Camacho Lifoifoi, Soledad Camacho Cabrera, Francisca Camacho Torres, Consolacion Camacho Cabrera, Juan Campos Camacho, Gregorio

Campos Camacho, Virginia Camacho Castro, Rufina Camacho Reyes, Antonia Camacho Sablan, and Angelina Camacho Anderson. For more information, call Daling Nanbina at 483-1304 or 323-2636. *(PR)*

## DPA CAR MART

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## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



# JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy No.17-006

Opening Date: Friday, January 13, 2017  
Closing Date: Until Filled

## Fiscal/Budget Officer

**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. Supervises professional and support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Supervises day-to-day accounting operations to include: reviewing and approving journal entries; reviewing entries from accounting modules; reviewing trial balance and financial statements; reviewing and maintaining subsidiary ledgers; analyzing problematic accounts; providing guidance to staff; and, monitoring and analyzing revenue and expenditures. Attends a variety of meetings and serves as a liaison between the department and other departments, organizations and agencies. Prepares a wide variety of financial and analytical reports and statements. Prepares annual budget by providing advice and guidance to division managers. Prepares budget reprogram and reclassification requests. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**LOCATION :** SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**POSITION :** One (1)  
**SALARY :** \$56,439.00 to \$76,192.00 per annum.  
(Salary is negotiable based on qualification and experience.)  
**CONTRACT :** Two (2) Years.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field and four years of professional level accounting or finance experience including two years supervisory experience. **Preferred Qualifications:** Master's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field and six years of professional level accounting or finance experience including four years supervisory experience. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Customer service principles; Supervisory Principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations. Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics. **Skill in:** Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Developing and implementing procedures and standards; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Pre-employment drug testing required. Applicants may be tested.

Drop off CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resources Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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# 4 advance to nat'l math contest in March

By YUUKI NISHIDA  
thisisyuuki@gmail.com  
STUDENT REPORTER

Four middle school students representing the Commonwealth will face "mathletes" from other states in a national competition after bagging medals in the statewide contest last Saturday at Koblerville Elementary School.

After two regular meets in October and December, 50 students qualified and 44 students from public and private schools competed for a spot to be on the CNMI team that will compete at the (INTER)<sup>2</sup> SECT, a high-level multi-state competition.

The students will compete for awards against other teams from school districts across the nation in San Francisco, California, next month.

The state competition consisted of two categories: team and individual rounds. Marianas Baptist Academy dominated the team round, placing first. The team players were Jeong Min Seo, Joanah Victoria Jimenez, Sarah Park, and Victoria Nicole Santos.

Agape Christian School placed second in the team round. Their players were Frederic Dean Michael Guintu, Shengzan Pan, Enyi Wang, and Zhiying Wang.

Grace Christian Acade-

my's Julie Quan placed third in the team round.

The top four students, based on both team and individual rounds, will be representing the CNMI at the (INTER)<sup>2</sup> SECT competition. MBA's Victoria Nicole Santos will be leading the CNMI MathCourt team's campaign. She and two other students from ACS and MBA—Frederic Dean Michael Guintu and Joanah Victoria Jimenez—swept the top three positions. Saipan Community School's Seung Ju Lee

will be the fourth member to represent the CNMI.

Saipan International School's James Lee, along with ACS' Zhiying Wang, Kevin Tang, and Tanapag Middle School's Rinto Takahashi, are alternates for the CNMI team.

The (INTER)<sup>2</sup> SECT is the largest math competition in the nation. Finalist teams compete for trophies and prizes in the main events. The CNMI last sent students to compete in the (INTER)<sup>2</sup> SECT competition last year.

# Truck catches fire on Rota

A fire of still undetermined cause burned down a silver 1995 Toyota pickup truck that was parked at a house in District 1 on Rota on Monday night.

No one was injured as no one was inside the car when the fire occurred, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde yesterday.

Gersonde said that DFEMS Rota received information at 7:44pm from a bystander about a fire in District 1.

Firefighters from Songsong Fire Station arrived at the scene two minutes later. Firefighters placed the fire under control at 8:35pm.

Gersonde said preliminary investigation conducted by an arson investigation unit revealed that when the owner of the truck arrived home, he smelled something burning. He suspected that the smell came from his truck's engine but he did not check it.

Further investigation showed that the fire came from the engine compartment, Gersonde said.

"The cause of the fire is undetermined and is still pending further investigation," Gersonde said.

Early Tuesday morning, an overloaded multi-plug outlet reportedly triggered a fire that engulfed Kevin's Mart in Chalan Kanoa. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



# JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 17-007

Opening Date: Friday, January 27, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, February 09, 2017

## Revised Senior Administrative Technician

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the CUC Board of Director or his/her designee. Assist the CUC Board of Director's Secretary on Board of Director Meetings, Personnel Committee Meetings, and Operations Committee Meetings. Perform transcribing of Board Meeting minutes. Performs specialized, advanced office and administrative support activities of assigned division or specialty area; provides administrative support, coordination and project assistance to assigned management. Reviews, verifies, processes, prepares and distributes various documents, reports, contracts, change orders, timekeeping records, schedules, specifications, billing documents, and/or other departmental documentation. Provides internal and external customer service by responding to inquiries and information requests, contacting appropriate resources to gather pertinent information, and providing documents, information or specifications for required resources or services. Enters and maintains data in systems; retrieves and reviews system information; performs research as needed to gather pertinent data; reconciles errors or inconsistent data; makes applicable corrections and updates to maintain data integrity. Maintains and organizes files, databases, and records; ensures retention of information in accordance with procedures and guidelines. Assists in tracking budgets and expenditures, project timelines, schedules, and/or document processes; prepares and distributes status updates and document revisions. Maintains and prepares requisitions for inventory, supply and equipment needs; monitors and identifies resource needs. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**LOCATION :** CUC Board of Directors, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY :** (Salary commensurate with qualification and experience)  
**CONTRACT :** Not Contracted.  
**POSITION(S) :** One (1)

**Minimum Requirements:** Associate's Degree or High School Diploma/GED or ABE Program AS and 3 years of office experience related to area of assignment. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Generally accepted accounting principles; Financial analysis principles and techniques; Advanced mathematical concepts; Research methods; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. **Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Providing guidance and leading work activities (based on assignment); Prioritizing activities and meeting deadlines; Preparing financial information, adjustments and entries related to general ledger; Researching, compiling, calculating and reconciling data and information; Researching technical issues, solving problems and providing solutions; Monitoring and maintaining fiscal account information and reporting; Reconciling data, preparing adjustments and posting account and journal entries; Providing attention to accuracy and detail; Preparing reports, correspondence and related fiscal documentation; Providing customer service; Providing technical guidance related to financial systems; Maintaining databases and financial records; Assisting with audits, inventory processes and/or equipment maintenance schedules; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



# JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy No.17-008

Opening Date: Friday, January 27, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, February 09, 2017

## LEGAL COUNSEL

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Reporting directly to CUC's Board of Directors and CUC's Chief Legal Counsel, Legal Counsel is entrusted with several matters. For example, when so instructed Legal Counsel will provide formal and informal legal advice to CUC management: Draft and review a broad range of legal documents, including legal opinions, proposed agency decisions, memoranda, contracts and other procurement documents. Legal counsel will represent CUC at a variety of meetings, negotiations and hearings; provide legal oversight of procurement contracts for goods, services and construction; assist CUC management, the board of Directors and Chief Legal Counsel with developing policy and regulations to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulatory policies, including both local and federal statutes; and investigate and implement necessary actions for compliance with laws and corporate policies. Legal Counsel works closely with Chief Legal Counsel and other outside counsel regarding ongoing litigation; advises CUC management and the Board of Directors of a variety of legal issues, including, but not limited to, billing disputes, human resource matters, property-related disputes, contract negotiations and interpretations, and personal-injury claims. .

**LOCATION :** CUC ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**CONTRACT :** ONE (1) YEAR CONTRACT WITH OPTION TO RENEW FOR ONE (1) YEAR  
**POSITION(S) :** ONE (1)

### REQUIREMENTS:

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Successful candidates for Legal Counsel must:

Hold a law degree from an accredited U.S. law school. Be a current member in good standing of the bar of any state within the United States, the CNMI or Guam. If not currently a member of the CNMI Bar, be eligible for prompt admission to the CNMI Bar. For admission requirements, visit [http://www.cnmilaw.org/court\\_rules.htm](http://www.cnmilaw.org/court_rules.htm). Have excellent interpersonal skills, be mature and self-sufficient, communicate effectively orally and in writing, and possess excellent professional judgment. **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Although not required, successful candidates preferably will have: Experience with utility law, federal and/or state energy regulatory law, and government procurement. Contract drafting and negotiation skills. Familiarity with working in a highly regulated industry. An understanding of the economics of electric power. A working knowledge of the legal and commercial issues involved in procurement, construction contracts, project finance, operations and maintenance agreements, and other utility project agreements. Experience working for or appearing before a federal regulatory agency. Strong business judgment and the ability to understand and respond to business issues and needs. Self-motivation, self-discipline and be results-oriented, with an ability to manage priorities and workflow. The ability to independently, and handle both small and large matters with equal effectiveness and enthusiasm. A background in finance, accounting, engineering or economics. The ability to manage multiple complex matters simultaneously. It is the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

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# MTEC thanks tourism summit sponsors, supporters

The Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit for CNMI Public School System My Wave Club students last Jan. 26 allowed students to “Discover My Marianas.”

“The tourism summit was a rousing success, thanks to the overwhelming support of various sponsors and supporters,” said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. “We couldn’t have done it without them.”

This year’s keynote speaker was TripAdvisor head of destination marketing APAC Sarah Mathews, who challenged students to take initiative in promoting the Marianas online.

Christopher A. Conception, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority, gave an overview of the Marianas tourism industry with the help of three impromptu MY WAVE Club members from Saipan Southern High School.

Dino Manning, president and head coach of the Marianas Outrigger Club, shared the inspiration story of the team’s success.

Emma Perez, co-founder and president of the board of directors of 500 Sails, inspired students with the vision of 500 traditional Chamorro and

*See MTEC on Page 8*



MTEC

Marianas tourism industry pioneer David M. Sablan receives a plaque of appreciation at the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit on Jan. 26, 2017, at Fiesta Resort & Spa. Pictured from left are MTEC board members Gordon Marciano and Catherine Perry Harris, Sablan, and MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, vice chair Wendi Herring, member Glenn Policare, treasurer Shamika Ratwani, and secretary Martin Duenas.



MTEC

Students at the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit on Jan. 26, 2017, at Fiesta Resort & Spa brainstorm their favorite places in the Marianas that they would promote to potential visitors.

## Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 9, 2017  
5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Fl., Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp)

### AMENDED

**A. Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 1/12/17 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

**B. Public Hearings:**

1. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0215:** Curtwill Corporation is proposing to operate a Barbeque Stand/ Catering. This use is classified as a “Restaurant, Drive Through” and will be located on lot 005 I 124 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0221:** Kimco Enterprises Inc. is proposing to operate a zip-line amusement activity designed to enable users propelled by gravity to travel from the top to bottom of inclined cables through seven towers. This use is classified as “Amusement, Outdoor” and will be located on lot 070 E 02 in As Teo area (past Santa Lourdes). This area is zoned as Rural.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0236:** SKT Company Ltd. is proposing to operate a farm with motel village consisting of 50 motel units within 53,939sm of land. This use is classified as a “Motel” and will be located on Lot EA 101-1-1 and TR 22602 in Kannat Tabla. This area is zoned as Rural.

**C. Communication**

**D. Old Business**

1. Board Review of proposed parking recalculation and justification by Saipan Globe International Group Ltd dba Saipan Globe Hotel, Conditional Use Permit No. 2016-4038 and Zoning Variance 2016-4303

**C. New Business**

1. Proposed text amendments to Article 5 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 (bulk & dimensional requirements and landscaping): sections 503 Beach Road, 505 Garapan Core, 506 Industrial, 507 Mixed Commercial, 508 Public Resource, and 511 Village Commercial.
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

**F. Executive (Closed) Session**

**G. Miscellaneous**

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

**H. Adjourn**

## PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

### INVITATION TO BID DPW-17-IFB-005

## TANGANTANGAN ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Tangantangan Road Improvement Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 2, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred **Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.”

**Breach of Ethical Standard**

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order. **NMIAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- **Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **February 21, 2017 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 3, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.

Sealed bids must be marked “**DPW-17-IFB-005**”. For bidders within the CNMI an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 8, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, March 8, 2017, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 8, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **March 17, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, March 22, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 8, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: “Credit Account No. 44660”. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway projects, FP-03.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO  
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director of Procurement & Supply



# 15 bills referred to JGO in first House session

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The House of Representatives' Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee will be among the busiest this year after 15 bills were referred to the legislative working group in Tuesday's first regular session on Capital Hill. A total of 37 bills were introduced.

Each House committee shall consist of no more than seven members, with an elected chair and vice chair. Besides JGO, the other committees

are Commerce and Tourism, Education, Federal and Foreign Affairs, Gaming, Health, Natural Resources, Public Utilities and Communications, Rules Ad Hoc, Social and Human Services, Transportation, and Ways and Means.

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) is JGO's chair with Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) as vice chair. The neophyte lawmaker said he is up to the challenge.

"We are looking forward to begin the work. My fellow JGO members and I are hon-

ored to work on these bills, hold public hearings, solicit stakeholder inputs, and get the bills out of the committee at the soonest," said Blanco.

Blanco, despite being a new face, was the GOP's bet in Precinct 3 and earned the most number of votes. He has years of experience as press secretary of the late governor Eloy S. Inos and incumbent Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Reps. Francisco C. Aguon (R-Saipan), Edwin P. Aldan (R-Tinian), Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota), minority leader Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) are the other JGO members.

Bills involving civil and criminal law, traditional rights, judicial administration and organization, governmental organization, judicial and execu-

tive appointments, suffrage and elections, citizenship, statute revision, civil service, inter-island relations, labor and immigration conditions of employment, conditions of entry into the CNMI, deportation, and other related matters are under JGO's jurisdiction.

Attao, Maratita, Villagomez, House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), independent Reps. Vinson F.

Sablan, Edwin K. Propst, and Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, and GOP Reps. Angel A. Demapan and Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero were the lawmakers that either authored or re-introduced bills that were referred to the JGO.

Propst re-introduced a House bill to prohibit the cruel treatment and theft of animals. The measure got held up at the Senate in the previous legislature.

The CNMI is the only U.S. state or territory that has no animal protection law.

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

### for Saipan Ventures Corporation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Ventures Corporation is proposing to operate an outdoor & indoor shooting range. This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and will be located on TR 22631-2 thru 22631-31, TR 22631- R2, and TR 22631 R/W in Papago. This area is zoned as Rural.

**Date:** February 9<sup>th</sup>, Thursday  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Zoning Board Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan or via email to [therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp) no later than 4:30pm, February 8, 2017.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

## MTEC

From Page 7

Carolinian *proas* on the water in the Marianas again.

Northern Marianas historian John Castro encouraged children to learn about the cultural traditions and history that make the Marianas unique.

Karen Joy Binuag, a graduate of the American Hotel & Lodging Education Institute, shared her personal experiences with the students.

"We also had a cadre of phenomenal exhibitors who shared various aspects of the Marianas with students," said Benavente. "Really, there was so much more they could've shared, with more time, and we thank them all for being a part of the event."

Offices and organizations provided hands-on demonstrations at breakout stations during the summit: Marianas Visitors Authority, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture, Coastal Resources Management, National Park Service, Historic Preservation Office, Northern Marianas Humanities Coun-



MTEC

Rachel Taitano, special assistant to the Marianas Visitors Authority managing director, teaches students about the marketing and promotions of the MVA at the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit on Jan. 26, 2017, at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

cil, Division of Fish & Wildlife, and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

The summit, which also featured an appreciation plaque presentation from MTEC to retiring long-time industry leader David M. Sablan, was also sponsored by T Galleria, Pacific Trading Co., the Hotel Association of the Northern

Mariana Islands, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"The financial support of our sponsors made the comfortable, large venue at Fiesta Resort & Spa possible," said Benavente. "Of course, the MVA is MTEC's most fervent partner, also providing outstanding staff support to coordinate the event, once again."

The event was also supported by the Office of the Governor, Public School System, and Dave Electronics Center.

MTEC is a non-profit organization formed in 2002 to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of tourism to the wellbeing of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. (MVA)

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

### for Curtwill Corporation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Curtwill Corporation is proposing to operate a Barbeque Stand/Catering. This use is classified as a "Restaurant, Drive Through" and will be located on lot 005 I 124 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

**Date:** February 9<sup>th</sup>, Thursday  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Zoning Board Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

### for Kimco Enterprises Inc.

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Kimco Enterprises Inc. is proposing to operate a zip-line amusement activity designed to enable users propelled by gravity to travel from the top to bottom of inclined cables through seven towers. This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and will be located on lot 070 E 02 in As Teo area (past Santa Lourdes). This area is zoned as Rural.

**Date:** February 9<sup>th</sup>, Thursday  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Zoning Board Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

### for SKT Company Ltd.

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. SKT Company Ltd. is proposing to operate a farm with motel village consisting of 50 motel units within 53,939sm of land. This use is classified as a "Motel" and will be located on Lot EA 101-1-1 and TR 22602 in Kannat Tabla. This area is zoned as Rural.

**Date:** February 9<sup>th</sup>, Thursday  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Zoning Board Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan or via email to [therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp) no later than 4:30pm, February 8, 2017.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman





### NMC PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, center, in glasses, and Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas, sixth from right, pose for a group photo with about 40 government agency heads and employees from the departments of Public Safety, Finance, Labor, Land and Natural Resources, Public Lands, and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Tinian after a presentation about NMC's Prior Learning Assessment Program. The program awards college credit for demonstrable knowledge gained from workplace training programs, military service, and work experience.

## Tinian to mark 13<sup>th</sup> Hot Pepper Festival this Feb.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 18-19, 2017, will again have ferry service between Saipan and Tinian this year and is adding campgrounds as an option for visitors.

Ferry service aboard the *Super Emerald* will be available on Feb. 17-20, 2017. Round trip cost is \$15 (0-2 years old), \$30 (3-11 years old), and \$35 (age 12 and older). For one way, the cost will be \$8 (0-2 years old), \$15 (3-11 years old), and \$18 (age 12 and older). Advance ticket purchase is required and will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis.

Passengers are allowed up to 70 lbs of cargo, including bicycles (a \$10 fee will be charged for additional cargo). The ferry schedule will be announced shortly.

To support the festival, Star Marianas Air will also extend scheduled flights to 9:30pm on Feb. 17 and Feb. 18.

In addition, event co-organizers Marianas Visitors Authority and Tinian Mayor's Office have announced the transfer of the venue from Kammer Beach to Tachogna Beach.

"Due to some safety concerns with the pavilions at Kammer Beach, we have moved the venue back to Tachogna Beach, where the festival was held in the past," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "As part of the MVA's destina-

tion enhancement, we have recently repaired the bathrooms at Tachogna and we have demolished the old pavilion in preparation for the new stage we are building at the site later this year. It's also a beautiful site for camping, and we are looking forward to hosting the festival there under the trees and next to that gorgeous beach."

In addition to shower rooms available for campers, the mayor's office will provide a campfire for cooking.

Available hotels on island include the Fleming Hotel, Lion House, Lorilyn's, and Street Motel. Some hotels offer airport shuttle, as well.

Activities will include the 65K Pika Bike Race on Feb. 18 at 6am, cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dance. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab) races, join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball and dragon boat races), or join the *donni sali* eating competition itself.

Festival times will be from 2pm to 11pm on Feb. 18 and from 11am to 11pm on Feb. 19.

Tinian is also accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam. For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at (670) 433-9365 or e-mail at [vbora@mymarianas.com](mailto:vbora@mymarianas.com). (MVA)

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Donald Trump immigration order bungled efforts to keep nation safe

President Donald Trump and his administration have every right to make a case to reduce the threat of terrorism by tightening procedures for allowing foreigners into the United States, and then to implement those new steps carefully and fairly. That's not what happened this weekend, when Trump only inflamed an already stressful situation.

His executive order to stop refugees and people from predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States is confusing, arbitrary and overreaching. It was enforced hastily and likely illegally, creating chaos at airports worldwide and sparking nationwide protests. It bypassed processes necessary for the effective functioning of government.

It also achieved an unintended irony: A president and administration that have made the country's safety a top priority might have accomplished the opposite. The biggest consequence of this fiasco is not what happened to the 200 or so people detained at U.S. airports, or the greater number left in limbo overseas. It's how the rest of the world now looks at America.

What are others to think when the new policy ensnares a doctor in a residency program at the renowned Cleveland Clinic? An interpreter who worked for the U.S. military in Iraq for more than 10 years? A Ph.D. student in linguistics at Stony Brook University? Husband-and-wife green-card holders, both disabled, ages 88 and 83?

The potential damage is far-reaching. Our military personnel in dangerous places overseas are more at risk of not getting cooperation from local residents. International business and critical research at American universities are threatened. This bungled exercise, an expression of intolerance, is a calling card for Islamic State recruitment. And worries about homegrown terrorists harboring grudges about America's treatment of Muslims are now only heightened.

Denying entry to people with valid visas when they started their travel likely is illegal. A blanket ban of green-card holders returning to the country, or submitting them to extra scrutiny without probable cause, is flat out wrong. All day Sunday, the White House struggled to tamp down criticism and finally seemed to back off that directive.

Trump and chief strategist Stephen Bannon have been so focused on the bulldozer optics of their first 100 days that they have ignored critical processes. In this case, they reportedly bypassed at least three departments — Justice, State and Homeland Security — and did not notify our allies, creating unnecessary havoc and harm.

Trump is right to want to make it difficult for terrorists to enter the country. But he denies reality when he says it is easy for refugees to come here. The vetting process already involves multiple agencies and takes up to two years. Permission once granted cannot be arbitrarily snatched away. That

See DONALD on Page 11

### WORLD'S SHORTEST HONEYMOON



## Five rules for talking with the other side

Remember Christine O'Donnell, the Delaware woman who oddly found herself, during a U.S. Senate run in 2010, needing to assure voters she wasn't a witch?

O'Donnell, with a push from the (then-new) Tea Party, upset establishment icon Mike Castle in the GOP primary.

That year, while working for an NPR radio station, I organized voter forums across Delaware to generate questions for a TV debate between O'Donnell and her general election opponent, Chris Coons.

Looking back, it occurs to me those events might have been the first time, and one of the few ever since, when Tea Party activists sat down with NPR liberals for a civil discussion.

From one such night in Dover, Del., two images stick: Tea Partiers arriving early for the forum, clutching pocket Constitutions in their hands—and those same folks lingering afterward in the parking lot, chatting away with the NPR types, fervent but friendly.

Imagine that—a lively, insult-free exchange between folks who vote differently.

It can happen. It should happen more.

It has to happen if we are serious about keeping the Republic, which ol' Ben Franklin warned might prove hard work.

As co-founder of the Penn Project for Civic Engagement, I've spent 20-plus years seeking to help people talk about things that matter, in ways that lead to solutions, not gridlock, to flashes of understanding, not thunderous rancor.

We Americans are in a tough spot, reluctant seat-mates in a leaky boat. We probe scars from a brutal election, suffer a plague of fake news, indulge bad habits on social media.

Even proven techniques of civil dialogue may falter in this toxic environment, I fear. Still, for what it's worth, let me offer five road-tested tips on how to talk fruitfully with someone who voted the other way on Nov. 8.

Don't seek to convert or win.

Seek to understand. The merchants of division don't want you to grasp this, but millions who voted for the other team are nice, solid, ethical people whom you'd feel fine about having next door or at the next desk. If you can leave a conversation with a better sense of why such a person voted in a way that pains you, then that's a real win. For you, for the other person (who probably needs to learn the same thing) and for the odds of saving this democracy. (Consider this pragmatic point: If you ever hope some day to convert a "wrong" voter to your views, best to begin with an olive branch, not a bludgeon. Name calling is not moral courage; it's name calling.)

Start with story.

Not with positions, arguments or labels. Tell me a bit about yourself is a more productive opening bid than: How could you

By **CHRIS SATULLO**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Chris Satullo is a former columnist and editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer's editorial page. Readers may email him at [centersquarephl@gmail.com](mailto:centersquarephl@gmail.com).



vote for someone who is out to ruin America? Perhaps ask a specific question in the vein of "Tell me about a time when ..." or "Tell me a story that sums up for you why you believe X."

Frame questions as invitations, not confrontations.

The goal here is not to skirt problematic issues. But the way you put such a topic on the table can make all the difference. It's one thing to say, "How could you vote for such a racist?" It's another thing to say, "Just personally, I found what X did about Y kind of troubling. How did you react to that and think your way through it?"

Avoid "fact wars."

I'm a journalist. The notion that facts matter is core for me. But I know just telling people they're wrong, then flinging facts in their faces, does not move opinion. Brandished this way, facts bounce off mental frames, leading people to cling ever more fiercely to their own "facts." In the era of digital bubbles, this sadly grows more true. What I'm about to suggest won't work with truly locked-down minds. But it might help if a person is even slightly open to new information. Try: "I'm not sure that fact you're citing is really true, but put that aside for now. Here's what I'd love for you to talk about: Why this assertion is so crucial to you." Then ask: "If I could show you solid evidence this isn't a fact, can you imagine that changing your thinking at all?"

Admit doubt.

First, to yourself. Second, to the other person. Only the purely partisan maintain that fact, logic, merit and virtue attach only to their team. My Penn colleague Harris Sokoloff often urges warring parties to mull these paired questions: "Is there any part of the other side's position, no matter how small, that makes sense to you?" and "Is there any part of your own position that bothers you even a little, that's a pebble in your shoe?"

That's it. Five tips for talking with the other team. I understand they won't work with everyone. The world, alas, has its stone-headed partisans and bigots. But, guess what, the ranks of those who voted the other way last Nov. 8 includes millions who aren't hopeless. You could talk with them.

Armed with these suggestions, why not give it a try?



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER****Sending money overseas**

By **MICHAEL J. CYGANNEK**  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**T**his week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" sets out good practices to follow when sending money overseas: You want to send money to someone in another country. Sometimes, this is called "wiring money." Wiring money is just like sending cash.

**Before you wire money**

A business that wires money for you charges a fee to send that money. Before you pay to send money, ask the business

these questions:

- How much money will my family or friend get?
- Will my family or friend get money in U.S. dollars, or in local money?

Write this information down. Visit a few businesses that wire money overseas. Compare the cost of one money wiring business to another. Each business might charge a different price. If the business will not answer these questions, think about going to another business. When you choose the money wiring business you will use, make sure the cost is the same as the business told you. After you send the money, keep your receipt. You will need it if something goes wrong.

**After you wire money**

Find out if your family or friend got the money you sent. Find out if they got the right amount. If they did not get the amount you sent, report it right away:

- First, report it to the money wiring business.

■ Then, if the business does not solve the problem, report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Call 1-877-382-4357, or go to [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint).

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program aims to provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) and then please submit it by email to [consumer\\_counsel@cnmioag.org](mailto:consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org).

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

*Michael J. Cyganek is consumer counsel of the Office of the Attorney General.*

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Debit or credit?**

Dear Department of Commerce: If you were to go and do some grocery shopping across many of the CNMI's retail stores, you would find that consumers using debit and/or credit cards are being forced to make a minimum purchase for using such a payment method. I believe that a public education campaign in this regard is needed to prevent violations of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010.

I don't claim to be an expert in the matter, but have found through a bit of research that all merchants are legally able to impose a minimum purchase, up to \$10, for customers paying by credit card; however this does not seem to apply to the use of debit cards. The question I have is what happens in the case when the individual is using a Bank of Guam or First Hawaiian Bank check card? I've witnessed vendors ask individuals whether they want to use credit or debit. If one were to say debit, would it be illegal to ask them to make a minimum purchase of \$10? If they performed such an illegal act, then where do we report such transactions in order to protect our consumers?

**Ross S. Manglona**

*Dandan, Saipan*

**A couple question**

Perhaps one of our local computer geeks can come up with an answer to the following questions before the point is finally recognized and answered on international networks:

1. How many Americans were murdered or maimed in the 50 states of the United States in 2016 by foreign terrorists, Islamic or other?

And,

2. How many Americans were murdered or maimed in the 50 States of the United States in 2016 by other Americans; in Jackson, Tennessee; Chicago, Illinois; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; East L.A., California; Washington, D.C.; . . . ?

**Don Farrell**

*Marpo Heights, Tinian*

**DONALD**

*From Page 10*

betrays our procedures and our ideals. Trump would be wise to surround himself with fewer ideologues and more people who understand the process of governing.

Ohio GOP Sen. Rob Portman got it right when he said this extreme vetting proposal was not well-vetted, and that Congress and agency heads should be involved. Trump has to get this right.

Sometimes in trying to shock the system, you end up harming yourself as well.

(c)2017 Newsday

**Consumer culture and its consequences**

**A** few years ago, I met a kid whose mother worked in a beef slaughtering plant in Garden City, Kan.

The plant employees were Latino immigrants, and many were in the country illegally. This kid had to massage his mother's hand after she came home each night because it was frozen in the shape of the knife handle she used all day. Her hand, it occurred to me, was one reason why we have such low meat prices.

I have followed the debate on illegal immigration for more than 20 years, during which time I worked as a journalist in Mexico and the U.S. The issue is dominated, I've come to believe, by Americans' desire to have it all. We want cheap stuff and low prices. We also want to luxuriate in complaints about strangers in our midst who don't assimilate as fast as we imagine our grandparents did.

That kid and his mother came to mind as Donald Trump assumed the presidency. Trump has backed away from his campaign promise to deport 11 million immigrants in the country illegally, referring instead to a goal of deporting 3 million people. Even if he follows through on only this low-end figure, it will test the contradictory tendencies of American immigration politics and our consumer culture.

I recognize the anger of citizens at the bottom of the economy who must compete with those in the U.S. without permission. That galls the native born, who know that competition is not trivial, and I don't like to hear them characterized as racist simply for pointing it out. But they alone didn't elect Trump. A good measure of the U.S. political culture that put him in office is shaped by people who want to eat their cake and keep it, too.

Over the last 25 years, immigrants have let us live like princes. Growing up in Southern California in the 1970s, I remember no middle-class family who could afford a gardener. Now, so many immigrants have entered the business, and tools made outside our borders have become so cheap, that landscaping fees have dropped to where even working-class families have help with their yards.

Immigrants were a key to the mid-2000s' housing bubble. Their inexpensive labor allowed buyers to purchase and renovate houses, then turn them quickly and for a profit. In Mexico recently, I met a man who spent three years at a company near Austin that cuts stone for builders; he slept on a warehouse floor, worked 12-hour days and made \$8 an hour so Texas houses could have stone facades and walkways.

Few non-Latino workers know how to install flooring any more, or are willing to do it for \$10 to \$15 an hour. Some flooring workers are here legally, but the trade is a magnet for those

By **SAM QUINONES**

*Los Angeles Times*

*Los Angeles-based freelance journalist Sam Quinones' latest book is Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic, now available in paperback. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*



without papers. They keep wages \_ and floor installation costs \_ low. The same might be said for carpentry, plumbing, painting, roofing, and building swimming pools.

The pallet industry is essential to American commerce and the low price of goods. It supports bulk transportation from farms and factories, and it too depends on immigrant labor \_ much of it, I suspect, illegal. The same is true of warehousing and distribution in general. Wages kept at \$11 to \$13 an hour in these businesses go some way toward explaining how companies can provide free shipping for e-commerce orders, which is labor intensive.

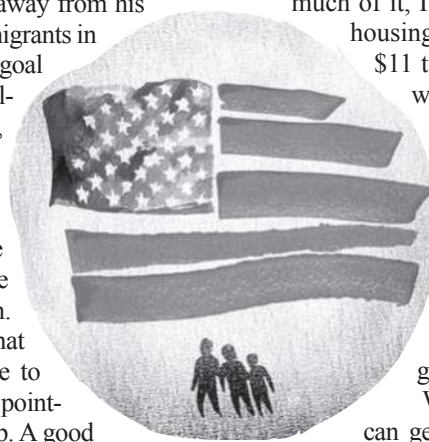
President Obama already set records for deportations during his eight years in office \_ more than 2 million people. Continued or increased large-scale deportation will surely result in a loss of skill sets and willing workers, particularly for certain regions of the country.

With fewer workers forced to take what they can get, wages may have to rise. Slaughterhouses may have to dramatically improve their working conditions. These are good outcomes. Power returns to unions as labor supply dwindles. Again, that's a good thing in a time when capital's hegemony seems absolute.

Another logical result of increased deportation would be higher consumer prices, of course. This would touch people in every economic bracket, including many Trump voters, middle-class folks angered by illegal immigration. As consumers, employers or both, they are beneficiaries of cheap landscaping, cheap flooring, cheap pallets and the cheap meat cut by that woman in Kansas.

As simplistic as Trump's campaign seemed to me \_ proposing silver-bullet solutions to complicated real-world problems \_ his presidency may finally force us Americans, including legions of his supporters, to accept responsibility for our contradictory desires and consumer choices.






Put another way, maybe we'll see whether the courage of our convictions can survive higher-priced meat, the doubling in cost of a new floor, and the end of free shipping.



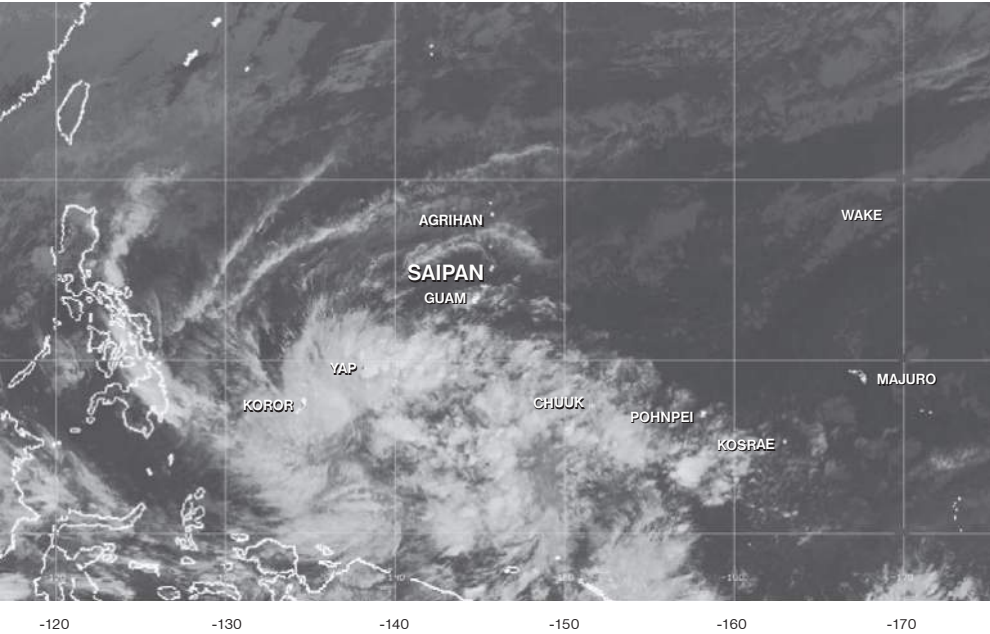


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2017**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Winds are a little higher today, largely as expected. We're looking for winds and seas to be just below small craft advisory criteria today, although gusts will have to be watched. The showers previously expected are sliding south of Guam waters and will have only peripheral effects on the forecast zones. After today, winds and waves will decrease a little leaving us in a more standard dry season trade-wind regime. In the later periods, the winds get a bit squirrely, likely turning toward the southeast and perhaps even the southwest. Then they could briefly turn northwest before a shear line blows through and turns them northeast again. This could be like the event last month, so it is definitely possible. If we get through today with no advisories, then none are foreseen at least the next few days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Showers	84° / 80°
Kosrae	Showers	84° / 80°
Majuro	Showers	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 59°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	45° / 27°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	68° / 64°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	79° / 65°
London	Showers	48° / 39°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	66° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86° / 73°
Melbourne	Sunny	81° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	78° / 68°
New York	Mostly Sunny	40° / 25°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	52° / 37°
Paris	Showers	57° / 46°
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	48° / 30°
Rome	Cloudy	61° / 54°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69° / 47°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	42° / 22°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	43° / 25°
Tokyo	Sunny	55° / 36°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	44° / 29°



### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:09 AM	LOW TIDE		0.18
11:37 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.98
6:10 PM	LOW TIDE		0.59
11:36 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.59

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:16 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Monday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:27 AM	11:00 PM	-
Friday	11:13 AM	11:56 PM	-
Saturday	12:00 PM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:54 AM	12:51 PM
Monday	-	1:53 AM	1:44 PM

### NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW308	3:05am	6:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:30pm	9:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:55am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	9:50am	3:20pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW307	8:45pm	2:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
DEPARTURE			ARRIVAL			DEPARTURE		
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			DEPARTURE			ARRIVAL		
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE		
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	ARRIVAL		
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily	FREQUENCY		
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat



# Miss Marianas '16 welcomes The Year of the Fire Rooster

Peachy Quitugua, this year's Miss Northern Marianas, took part in the Lunar New Year festivities last Saturday, Jan. 28 2017.

Quitugua was at the Hyatt Regency Saipan at 11:30am to welcome the Year of the Fire Rooster. She witnessed the Chinese dragon dance of good fortune, performed by members of the Chinese Association of Saipan, sharing in the spirit of prosperity for 2017 with hotel guests and employees.

"I wish nothing more than great fortune for our islands this upcoming year," said Quitugua.

Quitugua, who earned her associate degree in Nursing from NMC's Nursing Program in 2016, has already begun the initial stages of her platform as Miss Marianas 2016.

With the support of non-profit group Stellar Marianas, which runs the Miss Marianas program, Quitugua is looking forward to initiating a proclamation for the CNMI, one that will benefit the island youth and continue to grow for years to come. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miss Northern Marianas Peachy Quitugua, center, takes part in the Lunar New Year festivities last Saturday, Jan. 28 2017, at the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.



MVA

Chinese actor Shuo Yang, third from right, visits Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, on a location shoot with *Brides* in January 2017. Also pictured are members of the media team and Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, fifth from left.

## Rota, Saipan in *Brides* cover

As the result of another familiarization tour negotiated by the Marianas Visitors Authority, international publication *Brides* will feature Rota and Saipan as the cover story of its May 2017 issue.

*Brides* is published by Conde Nast International Publishing and distributes 500,000 copies in China, in addition to having a strong following on Weibo social media site.

The cover story will bring the Northern Marianas an estimated \$367,800 in ad exposure value and features actor Shuo Yang, best known for his role in last year's most popular

drama in China, *Ode to Joy*.

"The wedding and honeymoon market is definitely a strong niche market for the Northern Marianas and has seen recent growth, partly due to a few key celebrity marriages here," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "The MVA has been successful in negotiating a number of stories and local shoots by *Brides* magazine in the past. Although the flight schedule to Rota for large media or tour groups is always a challenge, we are pleased there were available seats to bring all the production team and equip-

ment to Rota this time."

The cover story, photographed last month, will include Rota Resort & Country Club, Song Song Lookout, Tweksberry Beach, Rota Swimming Hole, I'Chenchon Bird Sanctuary, As Matmos, and West Harbor.

Locations on Saipan visited included Kensington Hotel Saipan's St. Angelo chapel, San Juan Beach, Ladder Beach, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Mt. Tapochao, Salty's Bar & Grill, 360 Revolving Restaurant, and Surf Club.

The group lodged at Coral Ocean Golf Resort and Rota Resort & Country Club. **(MVA)**

### POI Aviation

Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

#### Avionics Technician (1)

Requires: High School graduate/GED or Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program, FCC license or NCATT certification or an equivalent foreign license. Four (4) years experience in an avionics/electrical career field; or two (2) years of accredited schooling in aviation electronics and two (2) years related experience. Performs various troubleshooting and evaluation of aircraft avionics systems; removal and installation of panels and components; and repair work. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Aircraft Maintenance Technician (7)

Requires: Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program with 2 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Performs various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA A&P License or an equivalent foreign license. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Ground Support Equipment Mechanic (3)

Requires: Diploma from technical/vocational course on automotive/diesel engines with minimum of 2 years experience in repair and overhaul of gas and diesel engines for automobiles and other specialized motorized equipment. Performs mechanical and electrical repairs, welding repairs, corrosion treatment and painting on all GSE equipment and vehicles. Must also be skilled in parts fabrication. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Load Planning Specialist (1)

Requires: Associate's Degree with 2 years of aircraft ramp operation experience with specific airline certification as a load planner. Ensures that aircraft load is distributed and secured in accordance with aircraft weight and balance requirements, ensuring that the aircraft's operational or structural limitations are not exceeded. Must be computer-literate and can perform manual weight and balance calculations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Senior Airport Service Supervisor (1)

Requires: Associates Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. Five years of airport passenger handling with at least two years of supervisory position. Monitor operational plans, provides leadership to agents, lead agents and junior supervisors to achieve consistently high quality services to customers in compliance with standard operating procedures and KPI's. Knowledge of all passenger (reservations, ticketing and departure control system), aircraft services functions (aircraft cleaning equipment, tools and materials), and the airline industry. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Airport Service Supervisor (1)

Requires: Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. One to two years equivalent work experience. Provides assistance and customer service to passengers by performing various customer service duties in the airport such as check-in, reservations, baggage and processing. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Airport Service Agent (Aircraft) (2)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Performs interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Must be knowledgeable in the use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Airport Service Agent (Passenger) (2)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Assists passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/ reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Chinese. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Airport Service Agent (Foreign Language) (6)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least 2 years' experience working as Passenger Service agent or on any related field of work. Fluency in a specific foreign language (Chinese/Korean) is required. Foreign Language speaking interpreters must effectively convert the verbal communication of one of these languages (Chinese/Korean) into the verbal form of the other. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Lead Aircraft Maintenance Technician (1)

Requires: AS Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering with 4 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the manager, performing various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA A&P License or an equivalent foreign license. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Lead Airport Service Agent (Aircraft) (1)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the manager, performing interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Knowledgeable in the use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials. Must be able to obtain CNMI driver's license. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Lead Airport Service Agent (Passenger) (4)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, assisting passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Lead Customer Service Agent (Cargo) (1)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience as a cargo handler. Handles and accepts cargoes according to the IATA, FAA, TSA, local airport, airlines and company regulations. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, preparing documents for out-going and transfer cargoes. Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo-handling equipment and be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Must be proficient in the use of CSP Cargo Trac System. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Lead Customer Service Agent (Ramp) (3)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in ramp cargo loading and unloading operations. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, operating equipment for loading and off-loading baggage/cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircraft. Ability to teach operation of specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Technical Operations Supervisor (1)

Requires: Diploma from technical / vocational course on automobile gas / diesel engines with minimum 4 years experience with a supervisory capacity in electrical, electronic, pneumatic, hydraulic system and gas / diesel engine maintenance. Plans work and supervises mechanics in performing mechanical and electrical repairs, welding repairs, corrosion treatment and painting on all GSE equipment and vehicles. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Terminal Operations Supervisor (1)

Requires: Associate's degree in related field. Five (5) years equivalent work experience. Specific airline certification as load planner. Sufficient mathematical skills to perform manual weight and balance calculations. Thorough knowledge in all areas of ramp, cargo and flight operations. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

#### Accountant (1)

Requires: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with 2 years of progressive experience in accounting. Airline industry experience preferred. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software.

#### Accounting Manager (1)

Requires: College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 5 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software. CPA not required.

Interested applicants may send their applications to [recruitment@poiaviation.com](mailto:recruitment@poiaviation.com). To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than February 15, 2017. Applications for employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

#### POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.





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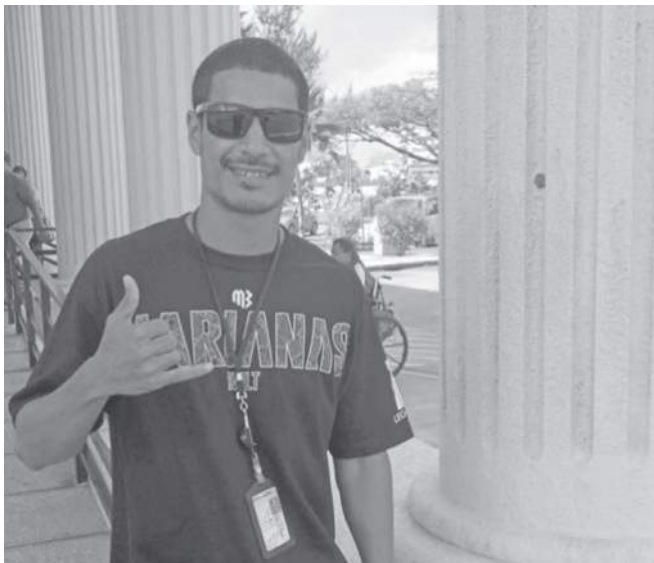
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# 'Helping others in recovery helps my own recovery'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A.J. Mettao currently works for the Community Guidance Center as a peer support technician and is looking to lead a potential new program for "Vets to Vets." A veteran himself, Mettao is in recovery from a drug addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder for which he admits that helping others serves as a good tool for helping him-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michael Torres joined the WRAP training because he likes being with his peers.

Participants in this week's Wellness Recovery Action Plan training share a common bond of being individuals living with mental illness, or substance abuse history from which they actively seek to recover. Overwhelmingly, too, they share a common sentiment in the idea that helping others is in fact a good tool for

helping themselves.

A.J. Mettao, who is in recovery from a drug addiction and who joined the WRAP training this week, said: "Maybe it's a little selfish of me to think this way, but helping others with their recovery actually helps me in my own recovery. So, I'm here because I want to develop tools for helping my peers and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Greg Borja currently works as a projects specialist for he Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. and is chairman of the State Behavioral Health Council. He joined the WRAP training to hone his skills in supporting others, but admits too that he is always looking for tools to help himself with his own substance abuse disorder and what he calls his IED...intermittent explosive disorder.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kaye Christian, second from left, a long-time advocate for individuals with mental illness, surrounds herself with her peers to make the point for anyone going through struggles with their behavioral health that "you are not alone and that being with peers and being a part of trainings like the WRAP is a wonderful way to achieving and maintaining recovery." Also in picture, from left to right, are Therese, Meredith and Felix.

because it helps me too."

The notion of a combined training in peer support for recovery from mental illness and drug addiction seems to highlight what in recent years appears to be a blurring of the lines between mental illness and drug addiction.

In fact, "research does sug-

gest at least a 60 percent rate for co-existing disorders in treatment programs. And professions have started to include substance abuse counselor training with mental health competencies, and mental health training with substance abuse competencies" (NAMI-YOLO). Sadly,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brett Halstead recently got his boat captain's license back and is in his eighth year of sobriety after a run-in with law enforcement due to, in his own words, decisions he made during the height of his addiction. He joins the WRAP training in part because he has a friend with schizophrenia for whom he'd like to be of more help.

we know that drug use "can sometimes give rise to symptoms that, over time, lead to a diagnosis of mental illness, but it is dangerous to conclude that drug use caused a mental illness" (Dr. Porteus).

Ultimately, whether we're talking about mental illness or drug addiction, the point is that recovery is possible and made just a little easier when we can draw on the strength and experiences of those in recovery themselves.

"It's much easier to open up to, share, and listen to others who have been or are going through what you're going through," Mettao said.

"Peer support is a supportive relationship between people who have experience in common. In this case, the experience that individuals or groups have in common is in relation to a mental health challenge or illness. This common experience might be related to their own mental health or that of a loved one. So, family-based peer support recognizes the struggle that members in a person's circle of support experience in relation to the mental health challenge or illness of a loved one."

Brett M. Halstead, another participant in the WRAP training who is also in recovery

from a drug addiction, made the point that, "Mental illness and drug addictions don't discriminate on the basis of class or status or anything else for that matter in our communities—so even our lawyers, judges, politicians and any other person in our community could be living with a mental illness and/or drug addiction. Trainings like this give us important tools to be able to help others and to help ourselves in the process."

For more information on the WRAP training and/or Peer Support Worker training, contact any of the DNP partners including, but not limited to the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. at (670) 235-7273/4 or at [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org); the Council on Developmental Disabilities at (670) 664-7000; University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at 234-3690. (PR)

## Bordallo urges Defense secretary to visit Guam during trip to Asia

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) wrote to Secretary of Defense James Mattis to request that he include Guam in his upcoming trip to the Asia-Pacific region. The Department of Defense announced that Mattis will visit Japan and South Korea during his first trip abroad as secretary of Defense.

"I am pleased that Secretary Mattis recognizes the importance of the Asia-Pacific region and is making his first

trip abroad as Defense secretary to meet with our allies and partners in the region. I hope that he will consider including a visit to Guam in his travel plans to gain a firsthand understanding of the unique contributions our island and our people make to our national security. Guam is a critical component of the U.S. strategic posture in the region. I hope that Secretary Mattis will take this opportunity to visit Guam and express the administration's commitment to the Marine realignment." (PR)

## Become a Reading Ranger at AMP

The American Memorial Park is inviting first to third graders on Saipan to participate in this year's first Reading Ranger selection.

Over three days, Feb. 7, 8, and 9, from 3pm to 4:30pm, young readers will be guided through *The Unbreakable Code* by Sara Hoagland Hunter by a park ranger.

The book tells the story of a Navajo code talker and the important role of the Navajo language and people during World War II. Following each

of the reading sessions, these Reading Rangers will have the opportunity to participate in fun and educational activities focused on the lessons of the story.

Reading Rangers is a youth reading program at American Memorial Park in partnership with Pacific Historic Parks. Throughout the year, the program will highlight different books for different ages that touch on the park's mission to honor the American and Marianas

people who gave their lives during the Marianas campaign of World War II.

To register your child, call lead ranger Brooke Nevitt or Jovanna Mafnas at 234-7207 or 2020. There are a limited number of spaces and participation will be determined by the date of registration.

For more information on events at American Memorial Park, contact Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or via email at [brooke\\_nevitt@nps.gov](mailto:brooke_nevitt@nps.gov). (NPS)

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 26th birthday to our amazing daughter/sister/auntie Martinie Josie Santos Calvo! Thank you for all that you do! We wish you a day full of happiness and a year full of joy! Dream big and have a wonderful birthday! We love and miss you so much! Much love from Mom and Dad StanZen, Pat-Nish, Zacrie Anna and kids, MarC-ess, Je'Mana, Shawn, Esper and Sage!



# Business

## 'Amazon backs suit opposing Trump'

**SEATTLE** (AP)—Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos says the Seattle-based company supports a lawsuit filed by Washington state's attorney general against President Donald Trump and the administration over Trump's executive order on immigration and refugees.

Fellow Washington state-based companies Microsoft and Expedia are also supporting the suit, which was filed in U.S. District Court in Seattle on Monday.



Bezos

The complaint and motion for an emergency temporary restraining order says the restrictions on immigration from seven majority-Muslim countries is damaging Washington state's economy and hurting its companies.

"We're a nation of immigrants whose diverse backgrounds, ideas and points of view have helped us build and invent as a nation for over 240 years," Bezos said Monday in an internal email to Amazon employees. "No nation is better at harnessing the energies

and talents of immigrants. It's a distinctive competitive advantage for our country—one we should not weaken."

Bezos vowed to support Amazon employees in the U.S. and around the world who might be affected by this order.

Officials with Amazon and Expedia filed declarations in federal court supporting the request for the restraining order.

Ayesha Blackwell-Hawkins, an Amazon senior manager of mobility and immigration, said the company has more than 40,000 employees in Washington state and more than 180,000 in the U.S., and they come from "every corner of the world."

The company is aware of 49 employees who were born in one of the seven countries targeted in Trump's order.

One employee impacted by the travel ban is Asghar Farhadi, an Iranian who directed the Amazon Studios film "The Salesman."

The film was nominated for

an Oscar in the Best Foreign Film category, but Trump's order will prohibit Farhadi from traveling to Los Angeles to attend the Academy Awards, the company declaration said.

The order also impacted 10 dependents of Amazon employees and seven job candidates, it added.

Robert Dzielak, executive vice president and general counsel at Expedia, said the company employs about 20,000 workers around the world and 3,500 in Washington state.

Expedia plans to expand its services as a global travel company and believes it's crucial to hire talent from around the world, he said, noting that employees regularly travel among its global offices.

The company is providing legal counsel and immigration services to all employees affected by Trump's order, he said.

Trump's executive order "has restrained Expedia employees' ability to travel freely, for professional or personal purposes," he said.

The order "imposes restraints on Expedia's ability to efficiently operate its business," he said.

percent compared with 2015. The revenue of downtown Las Vegas casinos was up 4.2 percent to \$565 million, while Reno casinos recorded wins of \$596 million, a 4.5 percent increase over the previous year.

### Japan spokesman: Trump criticism of currency policy off base

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japanese officials have rejected U.S. President Donald Trump's suggestion that Tokyo is seeking to weaken the yen against the U.S. dollar to gain a trade advantage. Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said Wednesday that Trump's comment, made in a meeting with executives of pharmaceutical companies, "completely misses the mark." Suga told reporters Japan plans to explain to U.S. officials that the aim of monetary policies that have pulled the yen lower is to spur inflation, not devalue the currency. Trump accused China and Japan of currency manipulation, saying they play "the devaluation market and we sit there like a bunch of dummies." After Trump's comments, the dollar weakened sharply against the yen. But by midday Wednesday in Asia, it was at 113.00 yen, slightly above its previous close of 112.94 yen.

### Nevada casinos win \$11.3 billion in 2016, up from 2015 take

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Casinos in Nevada won \$11.3 billion from gamblers in 2016, marking a second consecutive year of gambling revenue gains but still missing the pre-recession record set in 2007, state officials said Tuesday. The statewide amount that casinos took in was up 1.3 percent compared with 2015, according to data released by the Nevada Gaming Control Board. The gains—almost 64 percent of which came from slot machines—were recorded at casinos across the state and not driven exclusively by Las Vegas Strip casinos. "This is what we want to see," said Mike Lawton, senior analyst with the control board. "It's growing again, and it's widespread." Revenue from casinos on the Las Vegas Strip, Nevada's gambling mecca, totaled about \$6.3 billion in 2016, an increase of less than 1

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Tesla, BMW electrics fall short of highest crash-test rating

**DETROIT** (AP)—Two luxury electric vehicles—the Tesla Model S and the BMW i3—fell short of getting the highest safety ratings in new crash tests by the insurance industry. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety tested 2017 models of both vehicles. Neither earned the institute's "Top Safety Pick" award, which is given to vehicles that get the highest rating in five different crash tests and offer a crash-prevention system with automatic braking. To get a highest "Top Safety Pick-Plus" designation, vehicles must meet all of those criteria and have good headlights. In the 2017 model year, 38 vehicles have won the "Top Safety Pick-Plus" designation, including two plug-in hybrids: the Toyota Prius Prime and the Chevrolet Volt. But no all-electric vehicles are on the list. The institute hasn't yet tested the all-electric Chevrolet Bolt, which went on sale at the end of 2016. Tesla's Model S, an all-electric luxury sedan that starts at \$72,500, earned good ratings in four of the institute's five tests, including a side impact test and a head restraint test. But it earned a lower rating in a small overlap frontal

crash test, which replicates what happens when the front corner of the car collides with a tree or telephone pole at 40 miles per hour. The Tesla's safety belt allowed the crash dummy to move too far forward and it hit its head on the steering wheel.

# Nation

## Trump taps conservative Judge Neil Gorsuch for Supreme Court



President Donald Trump speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017, to announce Judge Neil Gorsuch as his nominee for the Supreme Court. Gorsuch kisses his wife Louise.

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump nominated Neil Gorsuch, a fast-rising conservative judge with a writer's flair, to the Supreme Court Tuesday night, setting up a fierce fight with Democrats over a jurist who could shape America's legal landscape for decades to come. At 49, Gorsuch is the youngest Supreme Court nominee in a quarter-century. He's known on the Denver-based 10th Circuit Court of Appeals for clear, colloquial writing, advocacy for court review of government regulations, defense of religious freedom and skepticism toward law enforcement.

"Judge Gorsuch has outstanding legal skills, a brilliant mind, tremendous discipline and has earned bipartisan support," Trump declared, announcing the nomination in his first televised prime-time address from the White House.

Gorsuch's nomination was cheered by conservatives wary of Trump's own fluid ideology. If confirmed by the Senate, he will fill the seat left vacant by the death last year of Antonin Scalia, long the right's most powerful voice on the high court.

With Scalia's wife, Maureen, sitting in the audience, Trump took care to praise the late justice. Gorsuch followed, calling Scalia a "lion of the law."

Gorsuch thanked Trump for entrusting him with "a most solemn assignment." Outlining his legal philosophy, he said: "It is the rule of judges to apply, not alter, the work of the people's representatives. A judge who likes

every outcome he reaches is very likely a bad judge."

Some Democrats, still smarting over Trump's unexpected victory in the presidential election, have vowed to mount a vigorous challenge to nearly any nominee to what they view as the court's "stolen seat." President Barack Obama nominated U.S. Circuit Court Judge Merrick Garland for the vacancy after Scalia's death, but Senate Republicans refused to consider the pick, saying the seat should be filled only after the November election.

Senate Democratic leader Charles Schumer said he has "serious doubts" that Gorsuch is within what Democrats consider the legal mainstream, saying he "hewed to an ideological approach to jurisprudence that makes me skeptical that he can be a strong, independent justice on the court."

Trump's choice of Gorsuch marks perhaps the most significant decision of his young presidency, one with ramifications that could last long after he leaves office. After a reality television buildup to Tuesday's announcement—including a senior Trump adviser saying more than one court candidate was heading to Washington ahead of the event—the actual reveal was traditional and drama-free.

For some Republicans, the prospect of filling one or more Supreme Court seats over the next four years has helped ease their concerns about Trump's experience and temperament. Three justices are in their late 70s and early 80s, and a retirement would offer Trump the opportunity to ce-

ment conservative dominance of the court for many years.

Gorsuch would restore the court to the conservative tilt it held with Scalia on the bench. But he is not expected to call into question high-profile rulings on abortion, gay marriage and other issues in which the court has been divided 5-4 in recent years.

If confirmed, Gorsuch would join the court that is often the final arbiter for presidential policy. Justices upheld Obama's signature health care law in 2012 and could eventually hear arguments over Trump's controversial refugee and immigration executive order.

Gorsuch's writings outside the court offer insight into his conservative leanings. He lashed out at liberals in a 2005 opinion piece for National Review, written before he became a federal judge.

"American liberals have become addicted to the courtroom, relying on judges and lawyers rather than elected leaders and the ballot box, as the primary means for effecting their social agenda on everything from gay marriage to assisted suicide to the use of vouchers for private-school education," he wrote.

Gorsuch has won praise from conservatives for his defense of religious freedom, including in a case involving the Hobby Lobby craft stores. He voted in favor of privately held for-profit secular corporations, and individuals who owned or controlled them, who raised religious objections to paying for contraception for women covered under their health plans.



# Asia

## ‘PH killings are extrajudicial’

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A majority of the thousands of killings of poor suspects under Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte’s anti-drug crackdown appear to be “extrajudicial executions,” Amnesty International said Wednesday, and may constitute crimes against humanity.

The London-based human rights group urged Duterte’s government to adopt an approach that respects human rights in its fight against drugs and crime, and called on the police and judiciary to ensure accountability and prosecute officers involved in unlawful killings.

After investigating the deaths of 59 people, and interviewing 110 witnesses, relatives of slain suspects, drug users, police officers and even hired killers, from November to December, Amnesty said it had concluded that “the vast majority of these killings appear to have been extrajudicial executions.”

Amnesty said it’s “deeply concerned that the deliberate and widespread killings of alleged drug offenders, which appear to be systematic, planned and organized by the authorities, may constitute crimes against humanity.”

There was no immediate government reaction, but

Duterte, a lawyer and former government prosecutor, has defended the crackdown and says that he and his top police officials have authorized law enforcers to open fire only when threatened by suspects.

The deaths of at least 35 policemen and three soldiers prove that suspects have fought back during raids, according to the police.

Duterte took office in June, and since then more than 7,000 suspects have been killed, including many slain in clashes with police. That is an average of 34 a day, Amnesty said. The campaign and deaths have alarmed Western governments, including the United States and the European Union.

In several cases, the rights group said its investigation found that “witnesses described alleged drug offenders yelling they would surrender, at times while on their knees or in another compliant position. They were still gunned down.”

It said police officers often appear to have planted “evidence” and falsified incident reports.

A police officer, who was involved in the crackdown in Manila, stated that police and hired killers profit from the killings, with some law enforcers getting paid from

funeral parlors for each body brought in, the Amnesty report said.

Amnesty said it interviewed two hired killers involved in the campaign who were paid 10,000 pesos (\$200) by a police officer for each killing they carried out, adding they gunned down three to four suspects a week.

On Monday, National police chief Director-General Ronald Dela Rosa indefinitely stopped all police anti-drug raids and disbanded police anti-narcotics units after the anti-drug crackdown was used as a cover by a group of rogue officers to kidnap and kill a South Korean man for money in a still-unraveling scandal.

The widely publicized scandal prompted Dela Rosa to form a counter-intelligence force to cleanse the 170,000-strong police force of criminals and corrupt officers. He has tried to resign twice but Duterte, who has pledged to defend the police enforcing his crackdown, has ordered him to stay on.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court prohibited a group of police officers from entering a slum community to stop them from threatening villagers who accused the officers of ruthlessly killing four residents in an anti-drug raid.

down debt and enact tax cuts. “We’re in a fantastic position of having an economy generating, in the last 12 months, well over 100,000 jobs,” English said. He said few countries in the developed world were enjoying the same level of economic success. Figures released Wednesday showed the job participation rate was at an all-time high but that unemployment had risen slightly to just over 5 percent, as more people looked for work.

### Thai authorities seek political foes taking refuge in Laos

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Thailand’s military government wants neighboring Laos to send back about half a dozen Thai citizens who have reportedly taken refuge there to escape being arrested for insulting the Thai monarchy, a crime punishable by up to 15 years in prison. Gen. Thawip Netniyom, head of Thailand’s National Security Council, said Tuesday that the people being sought used social media to attack the monarchy. He said the Defense Ministry has assigned him to seek a meeting with Laotian officials and work out a deal, which could include the exchange of people sought by each country. The wanted persons are associated with the Red Shirt movement, which opposes the military government that seized power in 2014 and generally supports former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was deposed by a 2006 military coup. Anticipating a crackdown, a number of high-profile critics of the military fled Thailand in the aftermath of a 2014 military takeover.

# World

## Reported treason arrests fuel Russian hacking intrigue

**MOSCOW** (AP)—In the days since it emerged that four men had been arrested on treason charges linked to cyber intelligence and Russia’s domestic security agency, conspiracy theories and speculation about the case have swept through Moscow.

Was it some fallout from the alleged Russian hacking of the U.S. presidential election? Were they part of a hunt for a possible mole who tipped off American intelligence agencies? Was it a power struggle within Russia’s security services?

Specifics of the case are murky, and no Russian government officials have commented publicly. Russian media have been filled with lurid, often contradictory, details that most assume are leaked by warring factions of intelligence officers.

Linking the arrests to the U.S. vote would mean joining the dots between a series of shadowy actors in the Russian internet world.

In one of the few formal acknowledgements of the case, Ivan Pavlov, a Russian defense lawyer specializing in treason cases, confirmed to The Associated Press that at least four arrests on linked treason charges had taken



In this Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 file photo FSB headquarters, grey building at center, in downtown Moscow, Russia.

place. He declined to elaborate.

U.S. intelligence agencies alleged in early January that President Vladimir Putin ordered a campaign to influence the U.S. presidential election in favor of Donald Trump, with actions that included using a group called Fancy Bear to hack email accounts of individuals on the Democratic National Committee.

In an unclassified version of their report, the agencies did not disclose how the U.S. learned what it said it knows, and Russia has denied the accusations.

“I have long assumed there has to be some human resource for U.S. intelligence,”

said Mark Galeotti, an expert on the Russian security services and a senior researcher at the Institute of International Relations in Prague.

The first arrest emerged last week with the news of the detention of Ruslan Stoyanov, an executive at Kaspersky Lab, a cybersecurity firm. Stoyanov apparently traveled widely as the head of the company’s computer incidents investigations. According to his LinkedIn profile, he was employed by the Russian Interior Ministry’s cybercrime unit in the early 2000s and hired by Kaspersky in 2012. Kaspersky has said the charges against Stoyanov relate to a time before he joined the company.

## UN postpones Syria political talks until Feb. 20

**BEIRUT** (AP)—The United Nations announced Tuesday that U.N.-sponsored political talks between the Syrian government and opposition groups have been postponed from Feb. 8 until Feb. 20, with a key aim of trying to solidify the cease-fire.

U.N. special envoy Staffan de Mistura, who will oversee the talks, said that “if the cease-fire becomes as solid as we hope that will only help the serious talks to actually be concrete.” He said the U.N. also wants to give Syria’s government a chance “to become seriously engaged in concessions” and to give the opposition time to unify its delegation.

De Mistura said invitations will be issued around Feb. 8. He said that if the opposition isn’t united by that date, he will select the delegation himself and ensure it is as inclusive as possible, including adding women, which has not previously been the case.

The cease-fire, which took effect Dec. 30, is broadly

working “quite effectively,” he said.

“The sooner we have a stable cease-fire and a political process, there will be a much easier possibility for everyone to focus on priority one, which is fighting the terrorist organizations identified by the Security Council,” the Islamic State and the al-Qaida affiliated Fatah al-Sham Front, previously known as the Nusra Front, de Mistura said.

On the ground in Syria, the U.N. World Food Program said it resumed food airdrops to besieged Deir al-Zour in eastern Syria after the Islamic State group renewed its assault on the city two weeks ago.

Militants cut off the remote city from its airport in a major offensive Jan. 15, a U.N. humanitarian adviser said at the time, and the airport is the only link to the outside world.

Islamic State extremists, who laid siege to Deir al-Zour in 2015, also captured the U.N.’s primary drop zone, forcing the WFP to sus-

pend relief deliveries for two weeks. The agency located a new drop zone and began delivering aid again Sunday.

The U.N.’s Jan Egeland estimated 93,000 civilians were trapped inside Deir al-Zour. Thousands of soldiers and loyal militiamen are also caught up in the siege.

The activist group Justice for Life Deir el-Zour, which maintains a network of contacts in the city, has accused the government and loyal militias of hoarding supplies as they are flown in.

Deir al-Zour natives told the AP last year they had to bribe government officials to escape via the airport. They said commanders were gouging food prices and profiting off the war economy.

De Mistura said that solidifying the cease-fire should allow greater humanitarian access to besieged and hard to reach areas of Syria.

He said several elements that give the current cease-fire a greater chance of holding, but they need work.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Philippine communist rebels to end unilateral cease-fire

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Philippine communist rebels say they are terminating their unilateral cease-fire after accusing the government of failing to release all political prisoners and encroaching on rebel-held areas. The Communist Party of the Philippines said Wednesday the cease-fire, which took effect Aug. 28, will expire Feb. 10. The rebels and the government had separately declared a cease-fire as they resumed their peace talks. The rebels say they continue to support peace negotiations. Founded in 1968, the rural-based guerrillas have unsuccessfully tried to negotiate an end to their rebellion and their inclusion in government with six Philippine presidents, including Rodrigo Duterte. But even before the latest announcement, the military counted nine rebel attacks since Sunday, including an ambush that killed two soldiers and a raid on a resort.

#### New Zealand’s new leader sets September date for election

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (AP)—New Zealand’s recently appointed Prime Minister Bill English announced Wednesday that the country will hold a national election in September in what will be a test of his popularity following the surprise resignation of former leader John Key. English said his conservative National Party will campaign on its strong record with the economy. He said that budget surpluses would allow the government to spend more on infrastructure as well as pay



# Environment

Nearly 100 false killer whales died in South Florida. Now scientists want to know why



TNS

NOAA officials are investigating a mass stranding of false killer whales near Hog Key in Southwest Florida over the weekend. A whale was first sighted on Saturday.

By JENNY STALETOVICH  
MIAMI HERALD

**MIAMI** — By the time rescuers returned to a mass stranding of false killer whales on the remote coast of Southwest Florida early Sunday, most had died overnight, their corpses now drawing aggressive, and hungry, bull and tiger sharks.

With waters too dangerous to enter and chances of survival unlikely, the team turned their attention to unraveling what caused the mysterious deaths, now the largest stranding on record in the state.

On Tuesday, Erin Fougères, the program administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Southeast stranding network, said rescue teams completed full necropsies on six of the whales, performed partial dissections on others and collected tissue samples from nearly all of the 82 whales that have died. Another 13 remain missing.

In the upcoming weeks, pathologists will look at blubber, skin and tissue from the whales' organs to try to understand what drove so many into the brown, turbid waters near Hog Key and just north of Lostmans River, a location about as remote and wild as any left in the state.

"There's a lot of different factors that could potentially cause it," said Fougères, listing changes in tide or unusual weather, water conditions such as red tide, or military sonar exercises blamed for killing beaked whales. The strong social bond shared by the whales could also be their undoing: healthy whales often follow the sick. Of all the different species, false killer whales also hold the record

for the largest whale stranding ever, Fougères said.

The Gulf of Mexico is routinely plagued with red tide outbreaks, with moderate to high amounts detected just this month far to the north. Over the last week, the state also began investigating a mysterious string of pelican deaths, leading U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist to ask the Environmental Protection Agency to test waters for toxicity in a letter Tuesday. Fougères said it was unlikely the deaths are related.

False killer whales are well known in Hawaii, where the deep ocean water they inhabit runs close to shore and a local population routinely entertains fishermen and visitors with spiraling acrobatics. What is largely known about the species — among the largest members of the dolphin family — comes from studies done on the herd. So many were getting caught on longlines set for swordfish and tuna in waters near the islands that they were added to the endangered species list in 2012.

But in Florida, they remain an enigma, air-breathing mammals that live miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, where they dive nearly 900 feet in search of tuna, octopuses and other deep-sea marine life to eat. The last time the Gulf whales were surveyed in the 1990s and early 2000s, fishery experts put their numbers between about 700 and a thousand. But today that information is considered too outdated to be valid, so government assessments list the herd as "unknown."

After a caller alerted the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission dispatch Saturday, the U.S.

Coast Guard headed out to confirm the beaching. By 1 p.m., a team of FWC law enforcement agents had reached the scene and found dozens of sick whales, Fougères said. Members of the FWC stranding team based in Port Charlotte hurried after them. But it wasn't until 3 p.m., with staff from the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota also on scene, that teams had the manpower necessary to coordinate efforts, made even more difficult by the lack of cellphone service.

"Once they had a critical mass of responders, they made efforts to lure the whales out," she said.

Two calves were rounded up, loaded onto stretchers and carried alongside boats to draw the whales from the shallow muddy waters, where many had squeezed between the thickets of mangrove roots. Between six and 10 whales followed the boaters to deeper water, but rescuers had to abandon efforts when it became too dark to navigate, Fougères said. By the time they returned early Sunday, many of the whales had died overnight. Large tiger and bull sharks had also started feeding on the bodies, making it too dangerous for rescuers to get in the water to help the remaining whales. Of the 95 originally reported, 72 died on their own. Another nine were euthanized by rescuers. The last remaining whale found alive was euthanized Monday afternoon, Fougères said.

While the whales typically swim in pods of about 10 to 20, when it comes to strandings, they tend to die en masse. No one is really sure why, Fougères said.

## IN LOVING MEMORY



*Fannie Melissa  
Tenorio Feliciano*  
*Also known as "Mel" or "Fan"*

Born on January 06, 1974 and  
called by the Lord to her eternal rest on January 28, 2017 at the age of 43

*In her new life she joins her:*

Grandfather: †Jose Cruz Tenorio  
Grandmother: †Blandina Iguel Tenorio  
Aunt: †Rosa Tenorio Pangelinan  
Sister: †Dinalynn Tenorio Aldan  
Nephews: †Darren Lee Lara Aldan, †Angel Lee Aldan, †Allen Lee Lara Aldan

*She will be missed and forever remembered in the hearts of her:*

**Husband:** Keral K. Feliciano  
**Son:** Drake Ryan Tenorio Feliciano  
**Mother:** Maria Iguel Tenorio  
**Uncles and Aunts:** Ann and Jim Perry and children, Juan and Rosita Tenorio and children  
**Brothers and Sisters:** Norman Lawrence Tenorio, Georgina and Rex Jose and children, Esteven and Vivian Tenorio and children, Richard Anthony and Kaori Tenorio and children, Albert Lee and Glenda Aldan and children

She will be missed by numerous extended family members, God children, friends, and co-workers.

Nightly Rosary of intentions will be offered at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag 7pm.  
On Monday, February 6, 2017 at 8:00 a.m., her remains will be escorted from the CHC chapel to Tanapag, Santa Remedios Church. Responso and Rosary will commence upon arrival followed by viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will then be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.  
immediately followed by interment at Tanapag Cemetery.

*Si Yu'us Ma'ase*  
**Maria I. Tenorio & Family**

## Message of Appreciation

We, the family of

# RODNEY STEVEN TAKAI CAMACHO

Give our praise to God and rejoice that our loved one  
now rests in the love and peace of His embrace.

Words cannot adequately express our profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our friends and family for all the kind words of comfort and for taking the time to join us in the Celebration of Eucharist in honor of our beloved husband/father and friend Rodney Steven Takai Camacho. Your prayers, love, support, and condolences have helped us tremendously during this most difficult time, giving us courage and strength to accept the will of God no matter how painful and difficult. Know that you are treasured in our hearts and will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Un dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase to Father Jesse Reyes and member of the clergy, for your prayers & services; John Aguon and choir, for gracing us with your music; Cabrera Funeral Home, for your wonderful service; doctors and nurses for your untiring help; and Congressman Larry DeLeon Guerrero.

To our many relatives and friends who joined us at the daily masses of intention, thank you.



*Thank you & Dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase*  
**Carmen, Ronnie & Family**



## Life & Style



### IPI SUPPORTS PIRATES BASEBALL TEAM

The Pirates baseball teams 1 and 2 received funding support for new baseball uniform and more equipment this week from Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team led by executive director Geri Dela Cruz.

IPI/CSR

# Budweiser focus on immigration in Super Bowl spot

Each year Super Bowl ads offer a snapshot of what's going on in the culture.

But this year's Budweiser ad released Tuesday featuring an immigrant's travel to the U.S. became suddenly more topical than Anheuser-Busch executives were probably expecting, released days after President Donald Trump's executive order Friday temporarily

banning refugees and nearly all citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries.

The 60-second ad called "Born the Hard Way," shows Anheuser-Busch co-founder Adolphus Busch traveling by boat from Germany to the U.S. in 1850s. He goes through travails including jumping off a burning boat and catching a glimpse of Anheuser-Busch's Clydesdales mascots, before meeting fellow im-

migrant Eberhard Anheuser.

"When nothing stops your dream, this is the beer we drink," the copy reads.

Ricardo Marques, vice president of Budweiser, in a statement said the company has been working on the ad since May.

"The powerful thing about the story is the fact that it's a human story and the human dream resonating," he said. "Of course it would be foolish

to think the current context is not putting additional eyeballs (on the ad), but that was absolutely not the intent and not what makes the spot as special as it is."

He added that Budweiser as a beer brand is inherently bipartisan.

"On Super Bowl Sunday, we want to bring people together in bars across the nation—that's who we are."

Still, it's hard to ignore the connection, said Jeanine Poggi, media

reporter for trade publication *Advertising Age*.

"Come Super Bowl, it's probably going to be one of the more talked-about ads given the debate over refugee rights, regardless of Budweiser's attempt never to respond to any sort of political climate," she said.

The Super Bowl at the NRG Stadium in Houston between the New England Patriots and Atlanta Falcons airs Sunday on Fox. (AP)

## Breitbart speaker at Berkeley stirs debate over free speech

**BERKELEY, Calif.** (AP)—Fans and foes agree that Milo Yiannopoulos specializes in controversy. The polarizing editor from Breitbart News is a self-proclaimed internet troll who has been criticized as racist, misogynist and white supremacist.

His scheduled visit Wednesday to the University of California at Berkeley has raised an issue facing campuses across America at the dawn of the Trump presidency: What is the line between free speech and hate speech?

The visit is sponsored by the campus Republican club. The university has stressed it did not invite Yiannopoulos, a right-wing provocateur who is gay and calls his event "The Dangerous Faggot Tour."

The potential for physical danger in reaction to Yiannopoulos came into the spotlight this month after a man was shot and wounded at a protest outside his Jan. 21 University of Washington talk.

Rowdy protests at UC Davis Jan. 13 prompted campus Republicans to cancel his appearance at the last minute.

On Tuesday night at California

Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, his speech was met with dozens of angry protesters outside a campus theater, but they were outnumbered by police who kept them far from the nearly 500 attendees and the event went on as planned.

His last stop was supposed to be UCLA on Feb. 2, but that invitation was rescinded, making Berkeley the grand finale of his cross-country campus tour.

Professors have joined hundreds of students calling for the event's cancellation. But university officials say it will be allowed in the name of free speech—as will protests that Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks expects could be "substantial" amid tight security.

"In our view, Mr. Yiannopoulos is a troll and provocateur who uses odious behavior in part to 'entertain,' but also to deflect any serious engagement with ideas," Dirks wrote last week to Berkeley's staff and 37,500 students. "He has been widely and rightly condemned for engaging in hate speech."

But as a public university, Berkeley's administrators are legally bound by the First Amendment to protect

free speech, meaning even offensive and hate speech cannot be banned or censored, Dirks said.

"We are defending the right to free expression at an historic moment for our nation, when this right is once again of paramount importance," Dirks said.

His letter did not name President Donald Trump, whom Yiannopoulos supports, but highlighted concerns at Berkeley and elsewhere since his election.

The Berkeley Republican Club says it has no plans to cancel the event because that would send a message that intimidation and violence can win.

"We don't support everything he's said or done," said Pieter Sittler, 19, a sophomore who is the club's vice president. "But we think it's important to have a complete political discourse. Not just stay in an echo chamber and silence what you disagree with."

The event's 500 seats sold out about 48 hours after the event was announced last fall, Sittler said.

Yiannopoulos "gives a voice to repressed conservative thought on American college campuses," Sittler said, adding that he uses "levity and humor" that should not be taken literally.

## At 13, pianist Joey Alexander heads back to the Grammys

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Joey Alexander, the 13-year-old jazz pianist, broke ground after scoring two Grammy nominations last year, though he walked away from the ceremony empty-handed.

This year, he has another chance to win.

He's nominated for best improvised jazz solo with "Countdown" at the Feb. 12 show, airing live on CBS from the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Alexander said he was "thankful" for his

Grammy nominations last year, but it was more special to perform on the live telecast and help bring jazz to a stage dominated by pop music.

"I'm very happy to share my music, and not just my music, but the music of jazz that maybe people haven't heard about," he said.

Alexander, who is Indonesian, has performed on a number of stages along with the Grammys, including Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Newport Jazz Festival and the White House.

"Countdown" is the title track from Alexander's sophomore album, released last year. His competition at the Grammys includes John Scofield, Brad Mehldau, Fred Hersch and Ravi Coltrane, son of the late jazz icon John Coltrane.

Alexander said recording an album was more comfortable the second time around and that it enhanced his skills as a performer. "I think it's really a blessing for me to be in the studio because ... I think it made me a better musician."

Like his 2015 debut album, "My Favorite Things," "Countdown" also reached No. 1 on Billboard's jazz albums chart. The new album also includes three original Alexander compositions.

"Being original isn't really that easy and it took me awhile to get the music together. I'm really thankful that the people enjoy it, people enjoy my compositions and even when I play it onstage, people dig it."



Yiannopoulos



Alexander



# Reality show comparisons in Trump announcement inescapable

**NEW YORK (AP)**—President Donald Trump's past life as a television showman provided an irresistible comparison for the media covering his nomination of Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Trump's announcement from the White House on Tuesday had a prime-time slot with broadcast and cable news networks all on hand, genuine suspense over the choice and, finally, the big reveal when Gorsuch and his wife, Louise, emerged from a doorway at the host's—make that the president's—request.

“Was that a surprise?” Trump asked audience members and television viewers.

Supreme Court nominations are usually not prime-time affairs and usually not surprises; a president's selection typically leaks to the news media before the two people make it to the podium. Throughout Tuesday, however, anticipation built, with reporters primarily speculating it would be one of two men, Colorado's Gorsuch and Pennsylvania Judge Thomas Hardiman.

CNN's Jim Acosta hyped the event as “reality television



**AP**  
President Donald Trump smiles as he speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017, to announce Judge Neil Gorsuch as his nominee for the Supreme Court.

strict travel from seven Muslim-majority countries, which had dominated headlines.

After the buildup, the new president's first prime-time address to the nation was a staid and serious affair. Trump avoided ad-libs in extolling Gorsuch's background and judicial philosophy, while pointing out he was fulfilling a campaign promise in nominating someone like him.

If Gorsuch's nomination is approved, that would mean all nine justices of the nation's top court will have studied at either Harvard or Yale, noted CBS News' Scott Pelley.

“For those of you keeping score, it's now Harvard 6, Yale 3,” Pelley said.

## Art dealer's cooperation earns leniency in 15-year fraud

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A New York art dealer who scammed the art world for 15 years with fake paintings in the name of famous artists will not go back to prison for the \$80 million fraud, a judge said Tuesday, crediting her for cooperating with the government.

U.S. District Judge Katherine Failla told Glafira Rosales, who spend three months in prison after her 2013 arrest, that her cooperation and her solid relationship with her daughter helped earn her freedom, though she required Rosales to spend nine months in home detention.

Rosales, 60, of Sands Point, New York, pleaded guilty in September 2013 to conspiracy, money laundering and tax charges. The charges could have resulted in a sentence of more than 12 years in prison.

Prosecutors said the fraud from 1994 through 2009

duped art enthusiasts into buying counterfeits imitating famous artists like Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Willem de Kooning. The fake art was created by an artist who had studied at a New York art school and sold paintings on the streets of Manhattan in the 1980s.

Rosales sold more than 60 never-before-exhibited and previously unknown works of art by some of the most famous artists of the 20th Century to two prominent Manhattan art galleries for \$33.2 million, the government said. Prosecutors said the galleries then sold the art to customers for over \$80 million.

She cried as she apologized before her sentence was announced.

“I wake up every day shamed of the crime that I have committed,” she said. “I am truly, truly sorry for what I have done.”

meets the Potomac.” CNN took a chance moments before the announcement, correctly predicting Gorsuch.

“High drama all day as the president and his team ratch-

eted up the suspense,” NBC's Lester Holt said as that network cast aside its traditional prime-time fare for the announcement.

“We've never seen anything

like this,” said ABC's George Stephanopoulos.

The announcement gave Trump the chance to move public attention off Friday's much-criticized decision to re-

## Lawsuit: Depp \$2M monthly spending to blame for money woes

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Johnny Depp's former business managers countersued the actor on Tuesday claiming his lavish lifestyle that cost more than \$2 million a month to maintain caused his recent financial troubles and that the star ignored their repeated warnings.

The countersuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court by The Management Group comes about two weeks after Depp sued the company alleging it grossly mismanaged his earnings.

The lawsuit said Depp paid more than \$75 million to buy and maintain 14 homes, including a French chateau and a chain of islands in the Bahamas.

Depp also spent heavily to

buy a 150-foot yacht, fly on private jets and cultivate collections of fine art and Hollywood memorabilia requiring 12 storage facilities to maintain, the lawsuit said.

Depp was repeatedly warned by the company that his spending was out of control but ignored his former advisors' advice to control his spending, the lawsuit said.

“Depp, and Depp alone, is fully responsible for any financial turmoil he finds himself in today,” the lawsuit stated.

Depp sued The Management Group on Jan. 13 seeking more than \$25 million he contends was mismanaged. His lawsuit also alleged the company failed to file Depp's taxes on time, costing him

\$5.7 million in penalties.

Tuesday's countersuit said Depp's tax returns were always filed on time, and taxes were paid when the star had money available to pay them.

The company handled his finances from 1999 until early 2016, an especially lucrative period in the actor's career.

During that time, Depp launched the blockbuster “Pirates of the Caribbean” franchise and other big-budget releases, including “Alice in Wonderland” and the 2005 film “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.”

Depp's attorneys did not immediately respond to email and phone messages seeking comment.

The countersuit seeks a

judge's ruling that Depp is to blame for his financial troubles, and \$560,000 in fees. The Management Group said it is owed.

The money being sought comes on top of \$4.2 million the firm announced on Jan. 13 that it was seeking from Depp for repayment of a loan it said it made to the actor.

Depp is not the first blockbuster star to take his former managers to court alleging mismanagement.

Nicolas Cage sued his former business manager seeking \$20 million for alleged mismanagement in 2009 and the manager in a countersuit cited the actor's spending for his financial troubles. The case was resolved before trial.

## Teen twins are ready to take different paths in new school

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 14-year-old identical twin. My sister and I are sick of the whole “twin” thing and want to go to separate schools. We really want to be our own people. We have wanted this for a long time now. However, I'm not sure we can because, where I live, you have to go to the school in the town you live in.

Do you have any suggestions on things we can do to make new, different friends, and how we can look different from each other? We are moving this year, so next fall we will be in a new school.

THE TWIN THING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

**DEAR TWIN THING:** You and your sister are smart girls. What you want to do will be healthy for both of you, and I congratulate you for wanting to do it. It's important that each of you develop as individuals, and the move will give the perfect opportunity to start.

If you have been dressing alike, make a point of not doing it from now on. If you have been wearing your hair in the same style, change that too. When you enroll in the new school, join separate clubs, go out for different sports, etc. If you do, people will no longer perceive you as molded from the same cookie cutter. Good luck.

**DEAR ABBY:** As a baby shower gift for my (soon-to-be) grandson, I plan on opening up a UTMA (Uniform Transfers to

Minors) account for his college education with a \$5,000 initial deposit. My idea is to add \$1,000 every year on his birthday for the first five years.

Would it be tacky to challenge, or encourage, his other three grandparents to contribute to the account by matching their contributions every year up to my \$1,000? Or would it be better to just tell them my plans and let them know they can also make deposits to the account? I don't know the financial situations of the others, and I don't want to offend anyone. Your thoughts?

ABOUT TO BE A GRANDPA IN ARIZONA

**DEAR GRANDPA:** I'm voting for your second idea, for the reason you gave. While the concept of an education fund for your grandbaby is laudable, making it a “challenge” might create financial stress for the other grandparents and be perceived as one-upmanship if they are unable to donate as much to the fund as you do.

**DEAR ABBY:** An older friend and I have exchanged emails since last spring. Hers have been mostly political and disparaging toward minorities. I asked her to please not send this stuff since we have opposite opinions on the subject, and I don't plan to change my mind. I enjoy our in-person talks because they are nothing like the emails she sends, which are “forwards” somebody else has put together.

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

I quit reading them, but is there a way to politely stop her from disseminating nasty propaganda? I have tried fact-checking and sending corrections to her and to those on the long list of people she has sent these emails. It doesn't work.

FACT CHECKER

**DEAR FACT CHECKER:** Because someone sends you emails does not mean you must read them all. Filter your email so that the political rants go into a special folder, then delete them en masse.

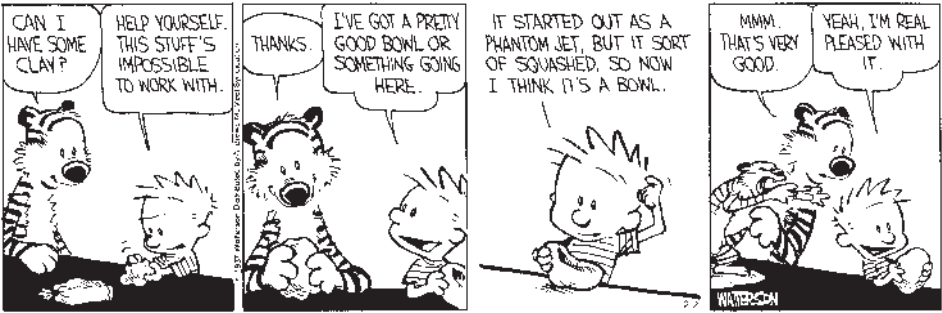
*Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby's Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

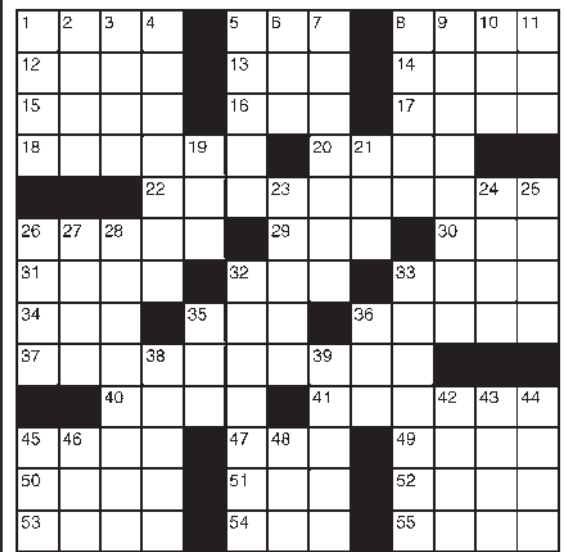
ACROSS 1 Concept 5 '60s chic 8 Bottom-of-the-barrel bit 12 "— Fiction" 13 Where Lux is 14 Tiny bit 15 River to the Baltic 16 Capote nickname 17 Slightly 18 Concoct 20 Diner's card 22 President Carter's Secretary of State 26 Georgia city 29 PBS funder 30 Part of DJIA 31 Oodles 32 Deep hole 33 Papa's mate 34 Bond rating 35 U.K. fliers

36 Lazy — 37 Hannah Montana 40 Timid 41 Yell, "You're not funny!" 45 Eastern bigwig 47 Kanga's kid 49 Air-show stunt 50 Maxi's opposite 51 Toss in 52 Differently 53 Genealogy chart 54 Golf prop 55 Fill up

DOWN 1 Apple product 2 Ranch visitor 3 Mountain ht. 4 Brandy flavor 5 Taxi 6 Couple's pronoun 7 Ringo Starr's gear 8 Prince William's mom 9 Domed buildings 10 LAX info 11 Wander about 19 Thesaurus wd. 21 A Gabor 23 Bring together 24 Prolonged sleep 25 Actor McGregor 26 Sir's counterpart 27 Jai — 28 Where Loretta's dad worked 32 Hoarder 33 Body-builder's pride 35 Reuben bread 36 Take to court 38 Haunting 39 — Island 42 Caffeine-rich nut 43 Missing 44 Duel tool 45 911 responder 46 Soviet space station 48 Poem of praise

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shakira, 40; Christie Brinkley, 63; Brent Spiner, 68; Graham Nash, 75.

Happy Birthday: Strategize and plan your future. If you wait for things to come to you, you'll never reach your goals. It's time to be the aggressor and turn your dreams into reality. Changes will be required, so don't be afraid to share your thoughts and plans with the people you believe can help you make progress. Align yourself with the right people. Your numbers are 3, 10, 19, 21, 33, 36, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll find it difficult to settle down, jumping from one thing to another with little thought. Concentrate on what you want to accomplish and you will avoid chaos and emotional mishaps. Discipline and patience will be required. \*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Choose to use your charm to get what you want. Don't hesitate to demonstrate what you have to offer. Keep close tabs on your health. Too much food and too little exercise will leave you in a vulnerable position during flu season. \*\*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Take care of your own business first and you'll avoid complaints and being criticized. A change in the way you do things will spark controversy as well as change. \*\*\*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Step aside if someone wants to argue with you. You don't have to reciprocate. Instead, look for new ways to be more efficient. Don't let your

emotions sweep you into someone else's affairs. Meddling will turn out poorly. \*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll experience an emotional revelation. Listen to what your heart tells you and make personal changes that will encourage you to develop a talent or idea you have. Hard work and strong beliefs will lead to new beginnings. \*\*\*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can be charming if you want something, but you can also expect someone to use emotional pleas to even up the score. Brush up on your chess game before you enter into a battle of the wits with someone just as clever as you. \*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you plan carefully, you will be able to come up with a way to please everyone, including yourself. Altering your routine will prove beneficial in more ways than one. If you are accommodating, you will get your way in the end. \*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Embrace the unusual and search for unique ways to move forward personally. Check out different cultures and places that offer a routine that fits your mentality. Stretch your imagination and associate with people who share your creative preferences. \*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Clear a space at home that will help you develop an idea, or find ways to bring in extra cash or improve your standard of living. Express the way you feel and make your intentions clear. Positive changes are heading your way. \*\*\*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Avoid travel and dealing with institutions or government agencies. You have to be fully prepared if you are going to go up against something bigger than you. Be smart, organized and secretive about your plans. \*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Sometimes it's best to look back before moving forward. Consider the mistakes you've made and revise the way you approach something you want to pursue. Set your goal, make your move and celebrate your victory. \*\*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Show a little compassion and put some muscle behind helping others. Your kind gestures will put you in a good position when you need a favor later in the day. A generous attitude will improve your relationship with others. \*\*\*

Birthday Baby: You are pioneering and proactive. You are helpful and reassuring.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2:02

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BLACK HAWK HELICOPTERS Solution: 6 letters

E E S I U R C A B I N D I K S  
N G H M A S T P B M I L C T A  
I U N D T S O L D I E R O N R  
B C A A O O O X Y G E N S A M  
R R S E R V I C E C K O A R Y  
U E M T Q D B T H G I L F E H  
T W D S U C R O T S I O H E L T  
R O T E E H O A O A R O H E T  
O P A A E O E M U L (F) (L) (Y) T O  
P E B T A P G S P G I T A I W  
S S M S I P S R N U T P B P H  
N R O T L E U F A E T S O K S  
A O C T A R G E T C F E A C A  
R H Y T I L I B A I L E R O R  
T S E T N E M Y O L P E D C C

2/2  
Aboard, Army, Cabin, Cargo, Chopper, Climb, Coast Guard, Cockpit, Combat, Computer, Copilot, Crashworthy, Crew, Cruise, Defense, Deployment, Fast, Flight, Fly, Fuel, Hoist, Horsepower, Hub, Knots, Mast, Oxygen, Pitch, Radar, Range, Reliability, Rotor, Safety, Seats, Service, Skid, Soldier, Speed, Target, Test, Tolerant, Torque, Transport, Troop, Turbine

Yesterday's Answer: Landscape  
To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com). (Contains 100 puzzles.)



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**JUDICIARY**  
Northern Mariana Islands

**Request for Proposals  
17-JUDICIARY-01**  
Janitorial Services for the Guma Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee,  
House of Justice  
Submission Date: February 10, 2017, 10:00 A.M.

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch is soliciting sealed proposals for janitorial services for the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewee/House of Justice, Saipan, for a period of one (1) year. Firms or individuals submitting proposals must have a valid CNMI business license and be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on **January 27, 2017** at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to [John.Villagomez@justice.gov.mp](mailto:John.Villagomez@justice.gov.mp).


A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on **February 7, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.**, local time at the Guma Hustisia Law Revision Commission—Law Library. Any questions or inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Gerald Weaver, Building Superintendent, at the pre-proposal meeting and all questions will be answered at the mandatory pre-proposal meeting. Any questions or inquiries not raised at the mandatory pre-proposal meeting shall not be answered and shall be disregarded.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP17-JUDICIARY-01** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **February 10, 2017, 3:00 p.m., local time**. Proposals must expressly state that the price offered is good for a one (1) year period. Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than **February 10, 2017, 3:00 p.m., local time**. Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to [John.Villagomez@justice.gov.mp](mailto:John.Villagomez@justice.gov.mp). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 10, 2017**, AND the proposal must be received at the Office of the Budget and Finance Director no later than **February 22, 2017, close of business**.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Government and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/  
Alexandro C. Castro  
Chief Justice  
Budget and Finance Director

/s/  
John T. Villagomez  
Budget and Finance Director



Commonwealth of the  
Northern Mariana Islands  
**SIXTEENTH TINIAN  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
Municipality of Tinian  
and Aguiguan

San Jose Village, Tinian MP 96952 CNMI USA  
Tel. (670) 433-3470 Email: [tigmunicipalcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:tigmunicipalcouncil@gmail.com)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (10CM § 9901), The Honorable Antonio Sn Borja, Chairman of the Tinian Municipal Council announces that the 16th Tinian Municipal Council will convene the following Regular Session on Monday, February 6, 2017 @10:00 am at the Tinian Municipal Council Conference Room.

**AGENDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**V. COMMUNICATIONS**  
A. Letter to Governor Torres  
B. Letter to DPL Secretary  
C. Letter to CUC Chairwoman  
D. Letter to CPA Board


**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**  
A. 16TH TMC Rules of Procedure  
B. Selection of Committee Chairs

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS / ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**  
A. FY2018 Budget  
B. Executive Director's Report

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

/s/ Antonio Sn Borja  
Chairman



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SAIPAN  
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is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant positions:

**(1) ACCOUNTANT - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**  
High school diploma/GED required, College degree in related field, highly preferred. Four (4) years progressive experience in accounting, preferably from a high volume hotel, AA or BA in either accounting or in the hospitality finance is preferred. Strong math and computer skills, particularly with spreadsheets, knowledgeable with accounting software are required. Must have an eye for detail; strong time management and organizational skills are essential. Must be able to work under pressure and can work a flexible schedule including week-ends and holidays when required. Must go through a pre-employment drug test.

**(1) IT TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST**  
High school diploma/GED required, College degree in related field highly preferred. Advanced experience in the configuration, installation repair and troubleshooting of computer hardware, network switches, network line connection, routers, Ruckus A/P, phone lines, phone units and other computer peripherals. Advanced experience in networking phone system and security camera. Advanced experience with desktop operating systems and MS applications. Advanced experience with skills in problem identification and problem resolution techniques. Ability to prioritize tasks with long term projects and work in a fast paced environment with minimum supervision, knowledge in property management POS, PBX system, web application, and SAP, must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends, holidays and overtime if necessary. Working conditions involve lifting and transporting moderately heavy objects such as computers and peripherals. Must go through a pre-employment drug test.

**UPHOLSTER**  
High school diploma/GED required, Two (2) years experience as an Upholster with above average knowledge in upholstery making, designing and conceptualizing, knowledge on stitching by hand or with the use of big sewing machines, repairing or redesign wrecked upholsters, must recognize different methods of upholstery making both in household and automobile, be able to communicate with the customers well and easy to understand what they want, must be meticulous with his/ her work, must be goal oriented and can meet deadlines. Must go through a pre-employment drug test.

**(30) COOKS**  
High school diploma/GED required, one (1) year experience as a cook in, international cuisine is required and preferably from a full service hotel or high volume restaurant, able to read and follow standardized recipes, strong knowledge of proper food handling procedures, must have problem solving skills, be self-motivated and organized, must be able to work under pressure and adaptable to last minute work preparation, able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays, able to work as part of a team in a busy kitchen atmosphere, must go through a pre-employment drug test.

**(5) GENERAL MAINTENANCE**  
Two (2) years experience as a general maintenance worker is required, must be able to work independently, must be able to move, carry and lift up to 50 pounds, must be a team player and has good interpersonal skills, able to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

**(1) CARPENTER**  
One (1) year carpentry experience or any equivalent combination of experience and/or education from which comparable knowledge, skills and abilities have been achieved. Incumbent in this classification is exposed to restricted movement, extreme temperature and intense noise inherent to carpentry position. Must be able to lift and carry objects up to 45 pounds. Must be able to work flexible schedule including week-ends and holidays.

**(1) SUPERVISOR, CARPENTER**  
Two (2) years work experience in Carpentry, in a supervisory level is required, from a high volume hotel or building complex industry preferred, must be able to lift and carry objects up to 45 pounds, must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

**(1) DEMI CHEF**  
Two (2) years work experience as a Demi Chef in a high volume restaurant or hotel is required. Must be able to work under extreme pressure, stand on feet for long periods of time and work in a heated environment, able to work nights, early morning hours, weekends and holidays.

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# Lakers hold off Nuggets 120-116 to snap latest losing streak



**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Nick Young scored 23 points, Lou Williams added 21 and the Los Angeles Lakers survived a frantic fourth quarter to snap their seven-game home losing streak against Denver, beating the Nuggets 120-116 on Tuesday night.

Rookie Ivica Zubac scored a career-high 17 points for the Lakers, who snapped their three-game skid despite getting outscored 40-39 in the wild final period.

Wilson Chandler scored 12 of his 26 points in the fourth for the Nuggets, whose three-game winning streak ended with just their third loss in 10 games.

D'Angelo Russell had 22 points, a career-high 10 assists and seven rebounds for the Lakers in his return from a three-game absence with a pair of mild leg injuries. His pick-and-rolls with Zubac allowed the Lakers to generate consistent offense in the fourth quarter.

The Nuggets hit their first six 3-point attempts and scored 11 consecutive points to open the fourth, but Williams scored 13 points in the final period and Zubac added eight.

Williams put the Lakers ahead to stay on a layup with 2:17 left. Zubac and Russell added jumpers on the Lakers' next two possessions.

Kenneth Faried had 14 points and 17 rebounds, but managed only two points and three boards after halftime in the Nuggets' second straight game without rising Serbian star Nikola Jokic.

The Nuggets beat the Lakers at Staples Center two weeks ago, and they hadn't lost a road game in this rivalry since November 2012 during the Lakers' most recent playoff season. But the Lakers had the previous four days off, and it showed in a resilient offensive performance.

The Lakers played their second straight game without starting forward Julius Randle, who is recovering from pneumonia.

## Spurs 108, Thunder 94

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard scored 36 points as the San Antonio Spurs held Russell Westbrook scoreless in the fourth quarter for a 108-94 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night.

Westbrook had 27 points, 14 assists and six rebounds in 34 minutes, but was shut out after scoring 14 points in the third. Rookie forward Dornan Sabonis matched a season



high with 13 rebounds and had 13 points.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 25 points for San Antonio, while Spurs coach Gregg Popovich collected his 1,126th career victory, leaving him one shy of tying the league record for most wins with one franchise held by Utah's Jerry Sloan.

## Wizards 117, Knicks 101

In Washington, Bradley Beal went shot for shot with Carmelo Anthony and then some as Washington blew out New York to move into a tie for first place in the Southeast Division.

Beal scored 28 points, Markieff Morris had 24 and John Wall added 15 points and 13 assists as the Wizards rolled to their fifth victory in a row. Beal was 12 of 18 from the floor, while Anthony was 10 of 17 for 26 points.

Washington improved to 28-

20 and tied the Atlanta Hawks for first place. The Wizards are the second-hottest team in the NBA behind only the Golden State Warriors, who also won 12 games in January.

## Raptors 108, Pelicans 106, OT

In Toronto, Kyle Lowry had 33 points and 10 assists, and made the tiebreaking jumper with 4.3 seconds left in overtime as Toronto outlasted New Orleans.

Jonas Valanciunas added 20 points and 12 rebounds, while Lowry matched his season high from 3-point range, going 6 of 14.

Jrue Holiday scored 30 points and Anthony Davis had 18 points and 17 rebounds for his 30th double-double as the Pelicans lost their second straight.

Down 106-102 with just over a minute to play in OT, New Orleans tied the game on Davis' floating jump shot with

29 seconds to go.

But Lowry worked the shot clock at the other end, finally putting the Raptors in front for good on his step-back jumper.

## Rockets 105, Kings 83

In Houston, Ryan Anderson had 25 points and 11 rebounds while Eric Gordon added 17 points as Houston used a big second-quarter run to beat Sacramento.

Anderson shot 6 of 12 from 3-point range and Houston went 14 of 45 from behind the arc as a team.

James Harden finished with 10 points, seven rebounds and eight assists, and Clint Capella had 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Rockets, who shot 45 percent.

DeMarcus Cousins had 16 points and seven rebounds for the Kings, while Kosta Koufos added 12 points.

## Trail Blazers 115, Hornets 98

**AP**  
Los Angeles Lakers' Nick Young, right, celebrates his 3-point basket past Denver Nuggets' Danilo Gallinari, of Italy, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017, in Los Angeles.

In Portland, Oregon, Damian Lillard scored 27 points as Portland handed Charlotte its fifth straight loss.

Allan Crabbe added 21 points off the bench for the Blazers, who have won four of their last five games.

Kemba Walker scored 22

points for the Hornets and moved into third place on the team's career scoring list. Nicolas Batum, who spent his first seven seasons in Portland, added 18 points and eight rebounds.

Maurice Harkless dunked with 9:37 left in the game to give Portland a 94-72 lead and the Bobcats never challenged down the stretch. Portland led by as many as 24 points and had five players in double digits.

The Blazers have won nine consecutive home games against the Hornets.

## LeBron calls Barkley 'a hater,' fires back at TV commentator

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—LeBron James is done bowing to Sir Charles.

After he was criticized by Charles Barkley for questioning Cleveland's front office, James tore into the former NBA star and opinionated TV commentator on Monday night following a loss in Dallas. James not only countered what was said about him but he also attacked Barkley's character for some off-the-court missteps.

"I'm not going to let him disrespect my legacy like that," James told ESPN after the Cavs lost 104-97 to Dallas, dropping the defending champions to 7-8 in January. "I'm not the one who threw somebody through a window. I never spit on a kid. I never had unpaid debt in Las Vegas. I never said, 'I'm not a role model.' I never showed up to All-Star Weekend on Sunday because I was in Vegas all weekend partying."

"All I've done for my entire career is represent the NBA the right way. Fourteen years, never got in trouble. Respected the game. Print that."

Barkley has never been one to hold back his opinion on James or any other player, but the 11-time All-Star was particularly critical of James last week after Cleveland's star complained about Cleveland's roster being "top-heavy" and questioning whether the team's front office was satisfied with one title.

Barkley said James was "whiny" and "inappropriate" and wondered about his motives. Barkley called James "the best player in the world" but wondered if he really wanted to compete. James initially dismissed Barkley, saying he was only trying to boost TV ratings. Barkley works as an in-stu-

dio host for TNT.

However, James decided he couldn't let those comments go and turned on Barkley, who never won an NBA title.

"He's a hater. What makes what he says credible? Because he's on TV?" James said. "I know he wanted to retire a long time ago, but he can't. He's stuck up on that stage every week."

James also said if Barkley wants to continue any discussion, he knows where to find him.

"If this makes him want to talk to me, the schedule's out there," James said. "He knows every road arena I'll be in. Don't just come up to me at All-Star and shake my hand and smile."

This isn't the first time James has fired back this season at detractors. He was upset when New York Knicks president Phil Jackson referred to his close friends and business partners as his "posse."

James hasn't forgotten Jackson's words, firing back at him to ESPN as well.

"I went to see (Carmelo Anthony) at the Garden two years ago when we were in New York," James said. "They played Portland. I went up to a suite at halftime, and Phil Jackson didn't say one word to me."

James and the Cavs have been struggling lately as they try to defend their title. All-Star forward Kevin Love has been dealing with back spasms and missed Monday's game and starting guard J.R. Smith remains sidelined with a broken thumb.

James insists the Cavs just need to play better and in the interim he vowed not to let anyone criticize him.

"I'm tired of biting my tongue," James said. "There's a new sheriff in town."



# Super Bowl opening night a bit more tame than usual



**HOUSTON (AP)**—A man traipsing around Monday's Super Bowl opening night in a full-length gown declaring himself "The Empress of Austria, Elizabeth I" was the most outrageous guest at what was a rather tame media night compared to the circus this event has been in the past.

The Empress, otherwise known as Julian Kurzwernhart, who said he'd been covering the Super Bowl for a television station in Austria for the past six years, spent more time being interviewed in his crazy getup than actually conducting interviews with the players from the Atlanta Falcons and New England Patriots.

"Why outfits? Oh yeah, that's funny questions because we want to spread some Austrian flavor every year here and spread some Austrian charm and you guys have something to love," he said. "It's a crazy event and you have to dress up."

The event, which is the first availability with the teams during Super Bowl week, was held at Minute Maid Park, where the Houston Astros play.

While media mingled with players on the field, 10,204 fans filled the stands to get a glimpse of their favorite players.

There were a handful of other strange getups, such as a man from a television station who wore a long blonde wig and a jersey which was half that of Atlanta quarterback Matt Ryan and half New England tight end Rob Gronkowski.

A reporter from a local television station sported an oversized red foam cowboy hat and asked everyone who spoke to him if they'd like to try on the matching blue one he held.

He handed the hat to Atlanta receiver Julio Jones who thanked him and placed it beside him on the podium next to his seat.

When the reporter informed him that



New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick answers questions during opening night for the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game at Minute Maid Park Monday, Jan. 30, 2017, in Houston.

he wanted him to try it on and not keep it and then tried to ask another question Jones jokingly snapped at him.

"Next question, I ain't messing with you," he said before cracking up.

Jones embraced the silliness of the night and said he couldn't think of a question he wouldn't answer.

"We have a lot of fans from everywhere, Australia, Mexico ... and everyone wants answers and I'm going to answer them to the best of my ability," he said. "It hasn't been too crazy for me."

Guillermo Rodriguez, a talk show personality on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live", asked the players sign what he called a football, which was actually a soccer ball.

He asked questions like: "Do you think Nick will find love on 'The

Bachelor'?" to Atlanta coach Dan Quinn and "What do you like pizza or pineapple?" to Falcons running back Devonta Freeman.

His fun didn't stop with the Falcons and he was even able to get a smile out of notoriously gruff New England coach Bill Belichick.

Rodriguez pronounced the coach's name "belly check" and told him: "You know you are much prettier when you smile."

He wasn't able to get an autograph from the coach though.

"No," Belichick told him. "Because it's not a football."

He eased up a second later telling him he might sign it later.

Rodriguez also had an extended exchange with Patriots quarterback Tom Brady where he told him his

teammates said he smelled like flowers and asked him if his wife, supermodel Gisele Bundchen had a sister he could date.

"No," Brady said simply.

Rodriguez followed up with: "I thought she had a twin."

Brady then explained: "She does but she's married," which drew boos from Rodriguez. "I know. Too bad."

Working alongside the traditional media on Monday night were a handful of people who are normally the ones fielding questions from reporters.

Gymnast Simone Biles, who won four gold medals at the Rio Olympics, worked as a correspondent for "Inside Edition", Houston Rockets power forward Kyle Wiltjer, reported as what he called an unpaid intern for NFL Network. And Houston Astros

pitcher Lance McCullers asked questions recorded by the team's social media department.

Biles said she would not be asking any difficult questions about politics or new President Donald Trump.

"I'm all about the fun questions," she said.

She said she might consider a career in media after she's done competing.

"We'll see," she said. "It's definitely different for me to be behind the camera on the other side."

Wiltjer, who is a huge NFL fan, had a little fun with some of his questions. He opened with a serious query to Quinn about the importance of special teams before hitting him with a more entertaining one.

"I'm 6-foot-10 with a 7-1 wingspan, you think I can I block some kicks for you?" Wiltjer said raising one of his long arms skyward.

That drew a big smile from the coach.

"There's no question you could," he said. "So let's talk afterward."

Actor Kel Mitchell entertained the players dressed as his character Ed from the 1997 movie "Good Burger."

He did an extended interview with Patriots tight end Martellus Bennett about why the black unicorn is his spirit animal.

"Shout out to the black unicorn," Mitchell bellowed.

Bennett replied by leaning into his microphone and neighing like a horse, which drew a huge laugh from Mitchell, who first gained fame from the Nickelodeon show "Kenan & Kel."

But the loquacious Bennett, who grew up in Houston, was far from done having fun in the return to his hometown.

He did interview after interview, took pictures with anyone who asked and by the time he was finally coaxed off the field he was the only player remaining, with his teammates long gone from the event.

## Only on AP: Falcons worried about handling of painkillers

By **JIM LITKE**  
AP SPORTS WRITER

A string of emails that began in 2010 with the Atlanta Falcons head trainer and reached all the way to owner Arthur Blank showed a franchise worried about its "excessive" reliance on painkillers to treat players and the potential embarrassment that could cause the team and the NFL.

One topic raised in the email chain concerned the review by an outside agency that found the team spent \$81,000 on prescriptions for medications for players in 2009—nearly three times the league average.

Nearly every recipient on the email chain—from Blank, president Rich McKay and general manager Thomas Dimitroff to then-head athletic trainer Marty Lauzon—is still with the team, which plays New England in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

"That's being litigated now.

That's not something we're going to discuss right now," Dimitroff said Monday night when asked about the emails. "When the time is right, we'll readdress that."

The emails were entered into the court record Thursday as part of a proposed class-action lawsuit by more than 1,800 former NFL players who claim they were encouraged by the medical and training staffs of NFL teams to abuse painkillers and continue playing without regard for their long-term health.

The case is being heard in the Northern District of California by U.S. District Court Judge William Alsup. The same allegations were originally filed in a 2014 class-action lawsuit that is currently on appeal before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The email chain was presented to the court as an example of thousands of similar documents gathered during

discovery that the ex-players' lawyers want entered into the record. It was coincidental that the Falcons chain was released before the Super Bowl.

Lauzon was not with the team at the time of the critical review. He became the Falcons' head trainer in January, 2010, and currently serves as the team's director of sports medicine and performance.

He first wrote to Dimitroff in May, 2010, to note the conclusions contained in the review by SportPharm, an outside agency brought in by the NFL to look at how teams purchased, dispensed and tracked medications, including powerful painkillers and prescription drugs. Among the problems Lauzon highlighted from SportPharm's review was the Falcons' "excessive dispensation" of narcotics and other medications, which risked creating a "culture of dependency."

"Within the first days on the

job, I was informed that we barely missed a DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) investigation because of improper billing issues," Lauzon also told Dimitroff.

One of the central contentions of the painkiller lawsuit is that teams did not properly keep records about prescriptions and which players were getting drugs.

Dimitroff forwarded the email to the owner just hours later.

"I thought it quite important for you to be aware of a rather sensitive subject and one we need to discuss before we include others on this topic matter," Dimitroff wrote to Blank.

"Agree—we should talk about this together with Rich (McKay, the Falcons' president)," Blank replied.

It's not clear what practices were changed as part of the discussion, and there is no evidence the Falcons violated league rules. What's clear

is that Lauzon was warning team executives that practices uncovered during the review could embarrass the team and raise compliance issues with the league.

Lauzon's first email to Dimitroff also copied in Jeff Fish, who was Atlanta's strength coach at the time and was released by the club in Jan. 2013. The trainer also expressed concerns that "players at the end of their careers going through medical issues" would seek media attention and "say they abused or are now addicted" to drugs as a result of the club's practices.

Dimitroff subsequently forwarded the emails to McKay, who remains team president and also serves as chairman of the NFL Competition Committee, making him one of the more influential executives in the league.

McKay reached out the next day to Dr. Elliot Pellman, a rheumatologist who controversially led the NFL's committee on brain injury at the

time and later became a league medical adviser.

He asked Pellman whether Mary Anne Fleming, who was then-director of player benefits in the league office, had recommended the Falcons replace their doctors in the wake of the same critical review, and if she was aware who actually administered the club's day-to-day medical regimen.

"I need to know—is this really true and does she realize the on-site trainer is really in control???" McKay wrote, then added. "I need to keep this confidential ..."

Lauzon noted that Fleming had also seen the SportPharm review and recommended the Falcons "start clean on all levels" - a new team doctor, head trainer and even a new pharmacy account number.

The proposed class-action lawsuit alleges that NFL trainers distributed drugs improperly, and teams failed to properly store and keep accurate records of the drugs, violating federal laws.



# TanHoldings, GPPC top opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

TanHoldings kept its unbeaten record, while GPPC barged into the win column of the JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League.

TanHoldings gained its third victory in as many games following a 97-66 rout of McDonald's last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium, while GPPC snapped its two-game losing skid after downing Docomo last Friday,

68-55. GPPC got its fourth win after a strong finish, as the team hit its target in the final canto. The payoff period began with the game in a deadlock, 44-all, and GPPC went

on to pull away slowly with Aba Tagle and Raymond Santos teaming up in the final push. Tagle scored all his 11 points in the fourth frame, while Santos added seven off his 11 in that pivotal quarter.

Alex Ocampo and Randy Mungcal also recorded double

figures with 20 and 14, respectively, and their baskets early in the game allowed GPPC to take the driver's seat in the first half before Docomo forced a standoff in the third period.

Docomo then folded up in the fourth canto, making only five field goals. Docomo tied GPPC's 1-2 record to remain at the bottom half of the team standings in Pool A.

Meanwhile, TanHoldings leads Pool A following its de-

molition of McDonald's. TanHoldings played without Ernest and Matt Duenas, but had no problem giving McDonald's a beating as Lerio Pagarao and Douglas Schmidt were there to provide firepower to the division-leading team. Pagarao had 28 points in his debut in the league, while Schmidt chipped in 25.

### Friday Game

**GPPC 68** – Ocampo 20, Mungcal 14, A. Tagle 11, Santos 11, Sampang 6, Advincula 4, Norial 2, Bandojo 2.

**Docomo 55** – Hayes 14, White 9, Sanciangco 8, Sablan 7, Alvarez 4, Kaipat 3, Griffin 2, Mendiola 2, Rabauliman 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-7, 33-25, 44-44, 68-55.

### Tuesday Game

**TanHoldings 97** – Pagarao 28, Schmidt 25, Villamena

7, Nonato 6, Matsutaro 6, Quizon 5, Demapan 4, Macoto 4.

**McDonald's 66** – Gaspar 17, Mc. Achas 14, Mi. Achas 9, Ayuyu 8, J. Achas 8, Ladra 4, Fapor 4, C. Achas 4, Gapor 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 24-23, 46-35, 75-54, 97-66.



## BSI

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clinching victory and added three RBIs and four runs. Ben Mesa was only 2-for-5, but he also recorded three RBIs with his two-run triple in the sixth inning helping the BSI Aces set up the win via 10-run mercy rule.

Pepi Tenorio made two RBIs, too in the sixth inning, as he came in for Ralph Torres and blasted a double that brought Jess Cabrera and Dennis Ngeskebei home. Mesa scored the fifth run for the BSI Aces at the top of the sixth off an Old Stars' error.

At the bottom of the sixth, the Old Stars also capitalized on the BSI Aces' defensive miscues to get two more runs and stay in the game. However, after their second run the Old Stars were called for out No. 2 when pinch runner Ton Camacho was beaten to second base. With two outs and Manny Cabrera

at first base, George David was charged with two strikes against two balls and eventually returned to the dugout when closer Mel Sakisat got the third strike and the win for the BSI Aces.

Meanwhile, Sai Sei defeated Papa Bears in a make-up game last Monday, 20-15, to clinch the last semis berth in the masters league.

Sai Sei scored seven runs in the pivotal seventh inning, five of them came off Papa Bears' errors, to gain enough cushion, going into the bottom of the last inning and catch the last bus to the playoff round.

In the semifinals, Sai Sei will face the top-ranked BSI Aces tonight, while the Old Stars and GSM Masters will square off in the other Final Four pairing on Tuesday. The winners of the two semis matches will duel in the one-game finals, which is likely to be played next week, too according to league coordinator Tony Rogolifo.

# United Airlines Guam Marathon names event beneficiaries

**TUMON, Guam**—Guam Sports Events Inc. announced the beneficiaries of this year's United Airlines Guam Marathon.

The Guam Fire Department (GFD) and the Guam Police Department (GPD) will join the Islandwide Beautification Task Force (IBTF), Tourism Education Council (TEC) and USO Guam as event beneficiaries.

"We are pleased to increase the number of event beneficiaries of the fifth annual United Airlines Guam Marathon," said Ben Ferguson, managing director of GSE. "These organizations do a tremendous job of supporting our community through beautifying our island, educating, ensuring public safety and taking care of our service men, women and families. They play a significant role in the quality of life that we all enjoy on Guam. We are proud to contribute to

these great organizations on behalf of the thousands of participants in the United Airlines Guam Marathon."

In a new twist to this year's event, three dollars from every registration will go toward these beneficiaries. The running event is set for Sunday, April 9, 2017.

"This year we are expecting to be able to contribute even more to the event beneficiaries since we are tying in a direct contribution for each participant's registration," Ferguson said. "Through their participation, community members are directly involved in contributing to these important organizations."

All event beneficiaries have also provided important support for the United Airlines Guam Marathon during the first four years of the event. GFD and GPD have ensured

the safety of runners and have been on hand for emergency assistance if needed. IBTF has provided a fiesta-themed aid station, which will be relocated to the post-race BBQ Beach Party this year. TEC has provided key volunteer support, including a cheering squad, on race day. USO Guam has helped the local and military communities come together in events like UGM. USO Guam has also provided volunteers to support water stops along race courses.

The United Airlines Guam Marathon, in its fifth year, is organized by Guam Sports Events Inc., a nonprofit organization that hosts annual running and cycling events to promote Guam's Hafa Adai spirit to grow sports tourism on Guam. The United Airlines Guam Marathon, Guam's first IAAF approved mara-

thon race, will take place on Sunday, April 9, 2017. Considered Guam's premier running event, the UGM includes 5K, 10K, half marathon (13.1 miles) and marathon (26.2 miles) race distances. All courses have been officially certified by the IAAF (International Association of Athletic Federations) and AIMS (Association of International Marathons and Distance Races). This designation means that marathon runners may use this as a qualifying event for the Boston Marathon. Complete event details and registration can be found on the official event website at unitedguam-marathon.com. The UGM is also sponsored by the Guam Visitors Bureau and the Pacific Islands Club.

For more information, contact Ben Ferguson, managing director, Guam Sports Events, Inc. (PR)



## LEE

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against Papua New Guinea's Patricia Apisah. The No. 16 seed Apisah advanced to the Round of 8 after eliminating Australia's Maggie Pearce, 6-1, 6-3; New Zealand's

Holly Stewart, 6-3, 6-1; and Australia's Joy Andreou, 6-4, 6-3.

Lee and Apisah will battle for one of the two semis berths at the lower half of the 64-player draw. The other semis ticket at stake at the bottom half of the draw will be

contested by No. 5 and Malaysia's Uma Nayar and No. 2 Alana Smith of the U.S. Smith advanced to the quarterfinals following a 6-2, 6-2 triumph over Australia's Danielle Morris, while Nayar also soldiered on after sweeping New Zealand's Oleksandra Kalachova,

7-6 (3), 6-1.

Meanwhile, the four other quarterfinalists are all seeded players. The list includes Uma's sister and No. 12 seed Sara, No. 1 Baijing Lin of Australia, No. 3 Joanna Garland of Chinese-Taipei, and No. 7 Mana Kawamura of Japan.

## OL'ACES

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plays, and the eventual champions capitalized on these errors to take a 76-70 advantage, 1:33 remaining on the clock.

Jerome Norita threw two errant passes in that crucial phase, while Derrick Rangamar's feed inside was intercepted, allowing Freddie Pelisamen a fastbreak layup and later a split free throw after being fouled on his way to another basket in transition. Barcinas scored the 2 other points for the Ol'Aces, banking a fadeaway jumper.

A Diaz putback off Syl Teregeyo's miss followed by Rangamar's split charities kept Saipan Apparel in the match, 73-76, 59 seconds to go in the fourth. Rangamar scored on his second free throw and the Ol'Aces made a quick inbound, catching Saipan Apparel's defense napping as

after just two passes Barcinas was already in their frontcourt and made a layup, plus a foul on Diaz. Barcinas went on to complete the 3-point play to bring the Ol'Aces' lead back to 6 and two more errors from Saipan Apparel wrapped up Game 2. Pelisamen had another split out of first blunder, while Lizama nailed a layup in the last miscue off the inbound play to peg the final score.

Pelisamen top-scored for the Ol'Aces with his 17 points—12 of them came in the fourth quarter where he played without relief. He also went 6-for-8 from the foul line.

"He was looking at me, asking for a breather. I looked away because we need him to be there. You know Freddie, he is not afraid to take those big time shots and I am happy that he delivered," said coach Elias Rangamar.

The Ol'Aces had to rely on

a workhorse player like Pelisamen as Saipan Apparel, behind the leadership of Diaz, stood toe-to-toe with the Ol'Aces in the fourth quarter before collapsing in the end. Saipan Apparel once faced a 10-point deficit in the third period, 45-35, before moving within one at the end of that canto, 50-51. Diaz and Kelvin Fitial teamed up in bringing Saipan Apparel back into the game.

Saipal Apparel even took a 54-51 lead in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter off Fitial and Ben Lisua's point-blanked shots before the Ol'Aces regrouped and the seesaw battle began. The Ol'Aces managed to stay in the game with Jesus Iguel's hustle plays, as the former sprinter scored 6 early points in the fourth before being gassed out and taking a breather midway in the final canto.

Barcinas, along with Liza-

ma took a break, too, but just for a short time, while Pelisamen remained on the floor, taking every opportunity to hit baskets that spelled the difference in the rubber.

Saipan Apparel, on the other hand, could not get into scoring position as it turned the ball over even before the leather could reach either Fitial in the paint or Diaz outside. Errors were not recorded in the match, but Saipan Apparel had more than 10 in the fourth quarter alone.

**Ol'Aces 82** — Pelisamen 17, Barcinas 14, Iguel 14, Lizama 13, Nakashima 6, Basa 5, Palino 4 Libuw 4.

**Saipan Apparel 73** — Diaz 20, Fitial 15, Andrew 11, Lisua 10, Teregeyo 4, Rangamar 4, Lizama 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-19, 36-31, 51-50, 82-73.



## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	30	18	.625	—
Toronto	30	19	.612	½
New York	21	29	.420	10
Philadelphia	18	29	.383	11½
Brooklyn	9	39	.188	21

##### Southwest Division

Washington	28	20	.583	—
Atlanta	28	20	.583	—
Charlotte	23	26	.469	5½
Miami	19	30	.388	9½
Orlando	19	31	.380	10

##### Central Division

Cleveland	32	15	.681	—
Indiana	25	22	.532	7
Chicago	24	25	.490	9
Milwaukee	21	26	.447	11
Detroit	21	27	.438	11½

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

San Antonio	37	11	.771	—
Houston	36	16	.692	3
Memphis	29	21	.580	9
New Orleans	19	30	.388	18½
Dallas	18	30	.375	19

##### Northwest Division

Utah	30	19	.612	—
Oklahoma City	28	21	.571	2
Denver	21	26	.447	8
Portland	22	28	.440	8½
Minnesota	19	29	.396	10½

##### Pacific Division

Golden State	41	7	.854	—
L.A. Clippers	30	18	.625	11
Sacramento	19	30	.388	22½
L.A. Lakers	17	34	.333	25½
Phoenix	15	33	.313	26

### NBA LEADERS

#### Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Westbrook, OKC	49	488	425	1505	30.7
Thomas, BOS	44	408	340	1293	29.4
Harden, HOU	52	427	468	1479	28.4
Cousins, SAC	48	449	371	1353	28.2
Davis, NOR	45	454	321	1251	27.8
DeRozan, TOR	45	448	338	1250	27.8
Durant, GOL	48	449	270	1262	26.3
Lillard, POR	45	385	295	1178	26.2
James, CLE	44	418	221	1128	25.6
Leonard, SAN	44	371	294	1127	25.6
Curry, GOL	47	392	204	1176	25.0
Butler, CHI	47	353	388	1151	24.5
Irving, CLE	42	381	163	1026	24.4
Antetokounmpo, MIL	46	393	255	1075	23.4
McCollum, POR	50	436	169	1168	23.4
Walker, CHA	48	398	185	1116	23.2
Anthony, NYK	49	409	215	1134	23.1
Lowry, TOR	48	348	254	1108	23.1
Towns, MIN	48	427	192	1102	23.0
George, IND	40	318	188	918	23.0

Adams, OKC	236	399	.591
Kanter, OKC	265	471	.563
Whiteside, MIA	308	563	.547
Durant, GOL	449	823	.546

#### Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Jordan, LAC	48	176	487	663	13.8
Drummond, DET	47	189	460	649	13.8
Whiteside, MIA	44	161	443	604	13.7
Howard, ATL	43	187	365	552	12.8
Gobert, UTA	49	183	431	614	12.5
Davis, NOR	45	106	446	552	12.3
Chandler, PHX	39	138	328	466	11.9
Towns, MIN	48	161	411	572	11.9
Gortat, WAS	48	148	397	545	11.4
Love, CLE	41	102	349	451	11.0

#### Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Harden, HOU	52	596	11.5
Wall, WAS	46	475	10.3
Westbrook, OKC	49	505	10.3
Paul, LAC	36	349	9.7
James, CLE	44	373	8.5
Teague, IND	47	386	8.2
Rubio, MIN	42	339	8.1
Green, GOL	46	342	7.4
Williams, DAL	37	263	7.1
Lowry, TOR	48	335	7.0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# 2nd Annual Timmy Would Go Memorial Paddle Classic

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Tyler Andrew, left, and Iris Rasa steer their way to the 50m course of the standup paddling race in the 2nd Annual Timmy Would Go Memorial Paddle Classic held over the weekend in the waters off Kilili Beach.



A volunteer from Imperial Pacific International CSR Team helps Iris Rasa get to the starting line, while other volunteers remain in the waters off Kilili Beach to ensure the safety of the participants.



Participants in the 100m standup paddling race get ready at the starting line.



Female paddlers head down the 100m course.



From left, Ponce Rasa, Carter Calma, and Robin Sapong try to catch up with the lead group during the 100m race.



Paddlers navigate the 100m course.



Rain pours as Joshua Andrew leads other paddlers back to the starting line.



From left, Joey Tudela, Steven Goodwin, and Vince Tudela, partly hidden, paddle their way to the finish line of the 100m race.





**Lakers hold off  
Nuggets 120-116  
to snap latest  
losing streak**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Super Bowl  
opening night  
a bit more tame  
than usual**

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28 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Ol'Aces clinch outdoor championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces showed poise in the homestretch to beat Saipan Apparel, 82-73, in the deciding Game 2 of their title showdown in the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Inaugural Men's Outdoor League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces hit clutch baskets and took care of the ball well in the closing minutes of the tightly fought match, while Saipan Apparel committed

costly turnovers that sealed the doom for the team, which came into the finals with a twice-to-beat advantage. The Ol'Aces eased past Saipan



Apparel in Game 1, 89-68, to force the rubber.

Freddie Pelisamen and Dan Barcinas delivered the important baskets for the Ol'Aces in Game 2, combining for 9 of the squad's last 11 points. Pelisamen and Barcinas' timely buckets offset the solid game veteran Ed Diaz played in the do-or-die match.

Diaz's triple gave Saipan Apparel the lead for the last time, 70-69, 2:53 left in the game. The Ol'Aces then quickly reclaimed the upper hand off Jack Lizama's short jumper, while Saipan Apparel turned the ball over three times in the ensuing

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
The Ol'Aces' Freddie Pelisamen, center, throws up a shot against Saipan Apparel's Ben Lisua, right, and Jerry Diaz during the fourth quarter of the deciding Game 2 of their title duel in the MIBF outdoor caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carol Lee, seen here competing in a local tournament last year, marched into the quarterfinals of her third tournament in New Zealand.

### Lee works way into quarterfinals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

World No. 369 Carol Lee labored for a quarterfinal berth in the NZ ITF Summer Championships 2017 as she needed three sets to win her third round match yesterday at the Scarbro Tennis Centre in Auckland, New Zealand.

Lee was paired against Australia Ivana Popovic and eked out a 6-4 victory in the first set, but missed a sweep when her No. 11 seed foe fought back in the second in a similar score. Facing elimination and with momentum now on the Aussie's side, the CNMI bet regained her bearings in the deciding set for a 6-3 triumph.



The tough win ended Lee's skid against Popovic, who defeated the Commonwealth player twice last year. The Land Down Under bet, along with teammate Chiara Di Tommaso, foiled Lee and Ayana Rengiil's finals bid in the doubles event of the ITF Waikato-Bays Under 18 Championships in Hamilton last year after prevailing in their semis game, 6-1, 6-2. Then in the singles contest of the same competition, Popovic downed Lee in the quarterfinals, 7-5, 6-2.

With Lee this time topping the Aussie player, the CNMI bet arranged an all-Pacific Oceania quarterfinal duel

**See LEE on Page 26**

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The BSI Aces bagged the pennant in the 2016 Masters Baseball League after outclassing the Old Stars, 20-10, in the final regular season game last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The BSI Aces finished the double-round robin elimination of the six-team competition with a 7-3 record, while

## BSI Aces win masters pennant

the Old Stars ended up with a 6-4 mark. The two teams are also in the playoffs, along with the GSM Masters (6-4) and Sai Sei (5-5).

The newly crowned pennant champions had their bats working early to take control of the important game. The BSI Aces scored 6 runs

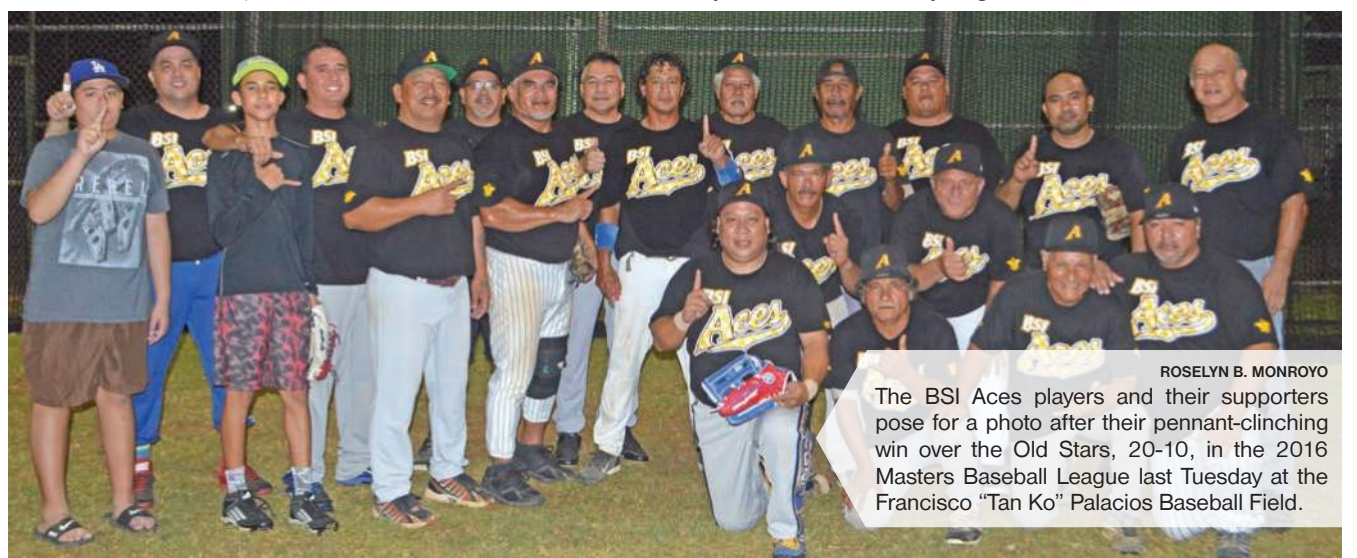
right at the top of the first inning and after slowing down in the second, they came back strong in the third, adding 7 more runs.

The Old Stars, on the other hand, struggled in the first two, making only one run apiece before getting their rhythm in the third by log-

ging five runs to stay afloat. Both teams were then held to one run in the next two innings before the BSI Aces earned the win an inning earlier after a five-run top of the sixth.

Reno Celis went 3-for-5 in the BSI Aces' pennant-

**See BSI on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The BSI Aces players and their supporters pose for a photo after their pennant-clinching win over the Old Stars, 20-10, in the 2016 Masters Baseball League last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.